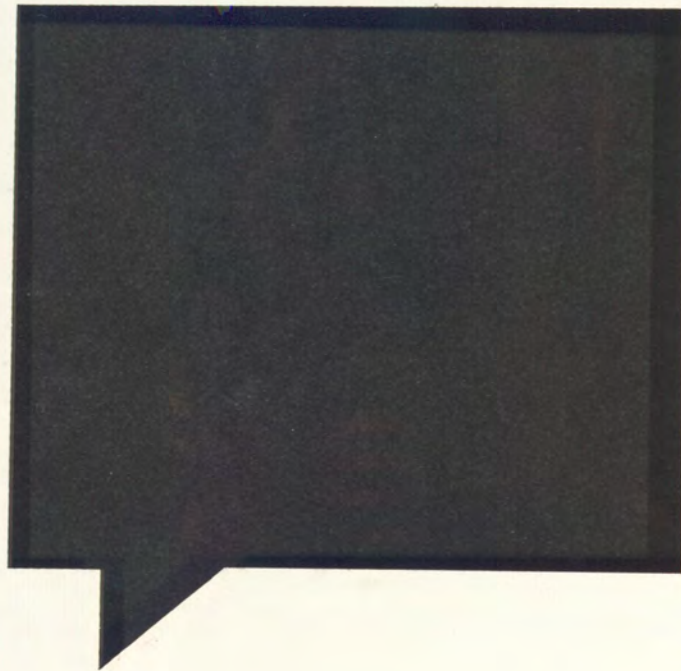


declare
entre nous 2012
Samford University

aug 27

At Connections' "Life" simulation, you were introduced to the craziness of college. Plus you got to have your picture taken with the real-life Mr. Beeson.



aug 2011

sept 8

The Harry's Coffeehouse concert series kicked the year off with a packed-out crowd, and you arrived excited to hear the music of Drew and Ellie Holcomb.



sept 19

Girls ran from the Wright Center with bid cards in hand to their new sisters waiting for them in the Quad. You almost lost your voice from all that cheering.

oct 10

The day you climbed Reid Chapel while everyone was away for Fall Break, but you forgot a marker to sign your name. Next time.





CAMPUS WATCH

Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management

CAPTURED

dec 14

"The suspect was captured near Beeson Woods after a short foot chase over the creek and thru the woods." It turned into an email that would be forever immortalized. Thank you, Mike Coppage. Remember, crime does not pay.

nov 29

You high-fived your friends in the orange vests as you earned your 60th convo credit. Then naturally, you tweeted at Matt Kerlin to tell him about your good news.

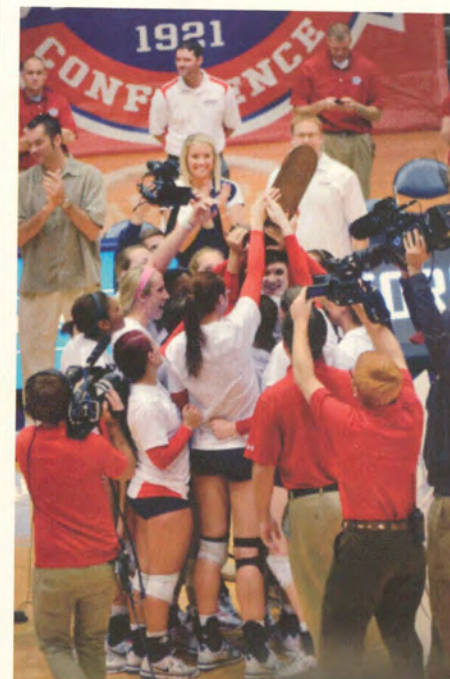
dec 2011

oct 29

After spending weeks of building, you were finally able to show off your group's float in the Homecoming Parade. You might have even taken home a trophy.



nov 21



With the University hosting the tournament for the first time, you were able to watch the women's volleyball team each step of the way, cheering them on to be SoConn champions.

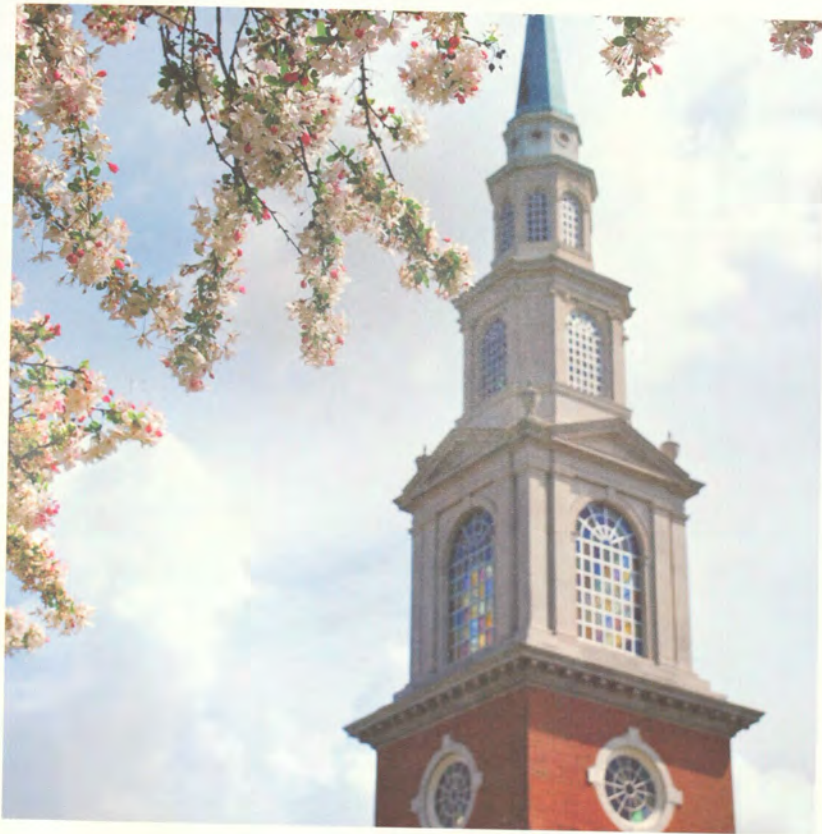
dec 3

Despite the early morning, you arrived at the work site with a servant heart as you participated in the first Samford Gives Back of the year.



fall

aug 27



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On behalf of the Entre Nous staff, we want to thank our wonderful advisors Donovan Harris, Sean Flynt and Caroline Summers for directing and encouraging our team through each step in creating this book.

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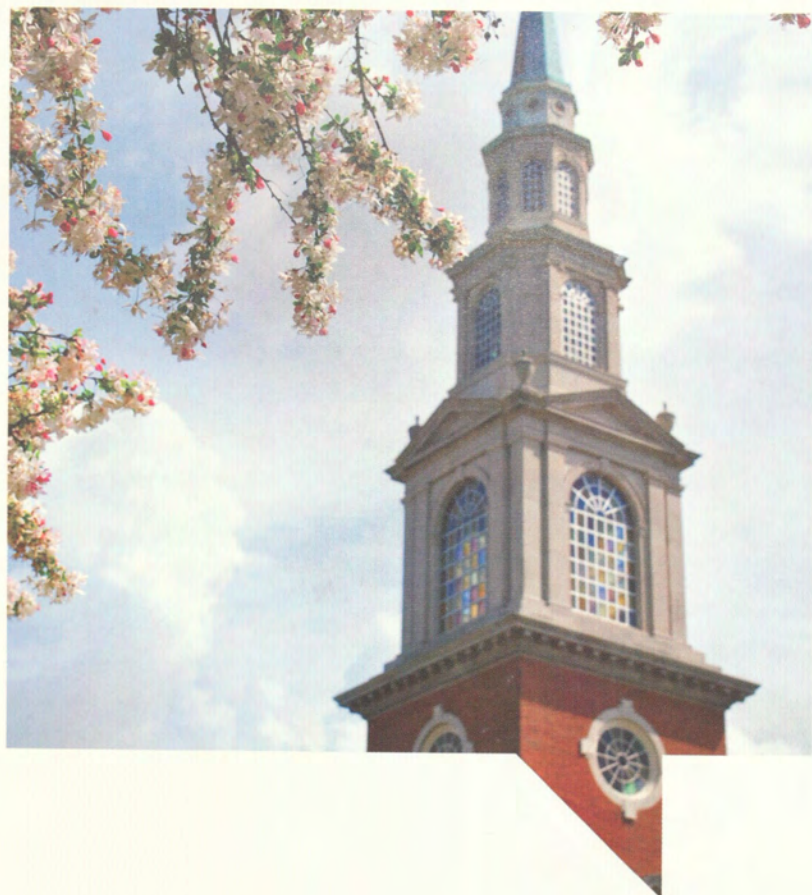
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The staff of Entre Nous seeks to provide documentation of a year in the life of the Samford Community. This culmination of pictures, stories and quotations are more than just mere images and words; rather, the book is meant to draw upon the deeper meaning and remembrance of the sequence of events that were instrumental in the growth of students, faculty and staff that occurred throughout the year.

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declare
entre nous 2012
Samford University

declare

by Sarah Waller

The room went quiet as the student walked up to the podium to speak during convo, as she stood among a room full of sisters to announce their newest pledge class and as he waited to hear the announcement for the team's first opponent in the NCAA tournament. To declare something does not require a microphone.

Of course, a microphone helps. No one in the balcony would have been able to hear you during Step Sing otherwise, but to declare something is not the act of being loud. It is the ability to express who you are, what you do and the values by which you stand for. It is done through the decision to study another hour, to play on your hall's intramural team or to simply go to Reid Chapel to pray. In everything you do, you declare something.

These pages are filled with those moments – times where you declared to the world who you were and who you wanted to be.

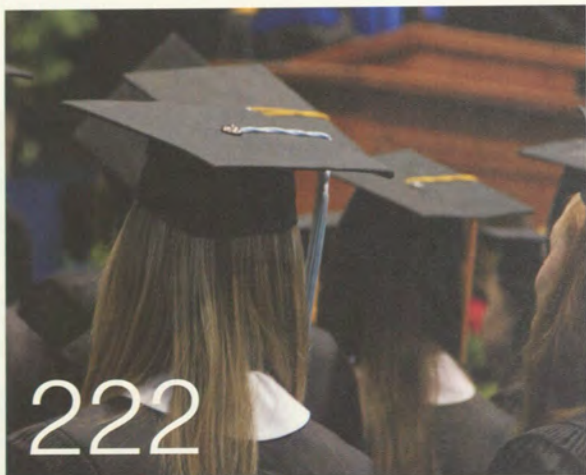
Few of us had the authority to use the microphone in the Caf (let alone knew where it was). Only a select few of us were able to address the senior class on the Pete Hanna stage during graduation. And rarely were you able to use the student-wide listserv to send out an email.

But you didn't let that stop you.

Whether through tradition or creativity, your letters or your faith, your pride or your success, you made sure to let the world know.







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88



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It was the moment you arrived at Step Sing practice, the afternoon you spent reading a book in the Quad and the day you headed over to the stadium for the Homecoming game. It may have seemed like everyday life, but at the University, it was called tradition. Tradition was the heart beat of the campus. It flowed through the parking lot as freshmen moved onto campus. It sparked the lights that twinkled off the Christmas tree in Centennial Walk. Every hour, we declared tradition by walking the steps that so many had gone before us. And everyday, we declared new traditions that paved the way for the future.





Samford life

declare tradition

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connections

Food, Friends and Freshman Fun

by Caroline Payne

Take a trip back in time: it is the beginning of your freshman year, and you have just settled down in your little shoebox of a room. You check out your bathroom. You make small talk with your roommate. You peek your head out your door and introduce yourself to your neighbors. You can count on one hand the number of people you know at the University, and you cannot wait for Connections to begin so you can make new friends; who knows, perhaps even meet your future spouse?

After the parents have gone and the sappiness begins to dwindle, students have a quick hall meeting with the RAs, and the time arrives to meet the Connections leaders. The Quad is packed with freshmen herding into each of their respective forty-five groups. Freshmen scan the numbers on the signs and spot their groups sitting under trees, hiding from the heat, or throwing around beach balls covered in questions.

"When I first joined my Connections group, the awkward silence was immediately broken by our outgoing leaders, junior Holmes Hill and senior Virginia Harris," said freshman sports medicine major Graham Laws. "Connections was a great way to get to know a small

group of people and to get any questions we had answered."

After dinner, the buses load in front of the Wright Center to take everyone to the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center to watch the classic *Little Rascals*. In true movie theater style, buttery popcorn and sodas are served.

The following day starts with breakfast in the Caf, small group sessions, group mixers and a technology services meeting. After lunch, the real fun begins with ice cream at Dr. Westmoreland's house.

"I had a great time getting to go to the president's house," said freshman, music and family studies major Jules Huff. "It was fun to be able to see Samford from a different view. The Westmorelands were super nice."

Once socializing over ice cream ends, Connections groups leave to shop for '90s attire for the much-anticipated '90s party. Girls and guys split into groups to explore different Birmingham eateries, such as Full Moon Barbeque, Iguana Grill and Momma Goldberg's—a student favorite.



Orientation leader Grace Kimrey and Connections leader Caroline Smith posed with excitement as they awaited the incoming freshmen.

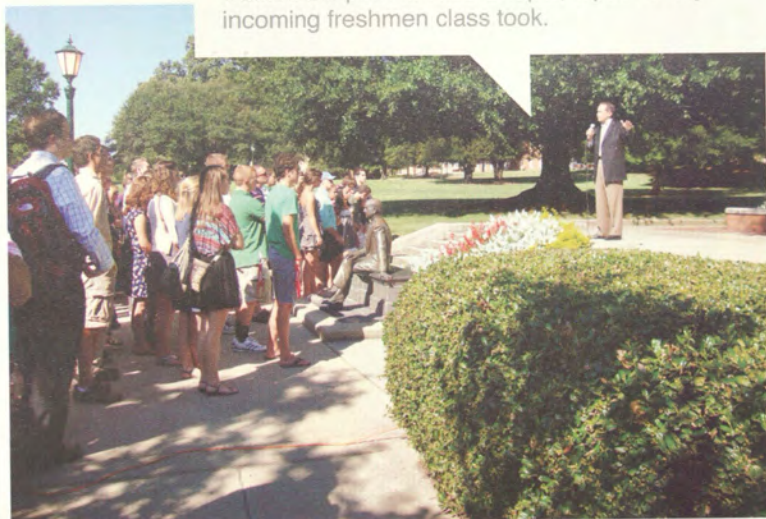


Connections leader Will Fine and Lindy Steele tossed out free t-shirts as freshmen checked-in.



Finally, the time arrives for the '90s party, the highlight of Connections for many freshmen. Once everyone had dressed in their tackiest '90s attire, the girls line the stairs in front of Vail for a surprise: the freshmen boys singing on bended knee, ready to escort their newest companions to the party.

On Sunday, the entire class of 2015 gathered on Centennial Walkway for a group picture and a motivational talk by Dr. Westmoreland. They then walked the path to Ried Chapel, a path every incoming freshmen class took.



Connections leader James Minor stood ready with his group's sign and question ball, waiting for the incoming freshmen to arrive.



Before the Connections '90s Party, the freshman boys decked out in their '90s best, sang to the freshman girls on the steps of Vail and then escorted them to the dance in Bashinsky Field-house.

YSYC

"Your School, Your City" featured Dierks Bentley

by Riley Westmoreland

The school year started off with a bang with the extremely popular "Your School, Your City" concert event, featuring Dierks Bentley for the second round of the event. Students were both surprised and excited when they heard over the summer that Dierks would be coming for the event.

"When I found out in June that Dierks Bentley was going to be coming for the concert, I could not believe it," said sophomore undeclared major Lindy Williamson. "It was an awesome opportunity to get to go to such a great concert for free on the first night back at school with all my friends."

The event, which represented a partnership between the Office of Events and the Office of New Student Orientation, took months to put together. Orientation leaders and members of the Student Activities

Council of SGA started meeting early in the spring semester to start the process of choosing an artist. When the choice was finally made and the offer had been submitted, the excitement really began to sink in.

"We were thrilled that we were able to land Dierks," said orientation leader and senior political science major Tom Oliver. "We wanted a name that friends at other universities would recognize, respect and even be jealous of, and we thought that Dierks was just that."

With the artist booked, the focus shifted to the other featured part of the event: vendors. With almost 30 vendors at Your School, Your City this year, students had lots to choose from when exploring the concert venue space. From tents purchased by University students promoting their business, like We: Wear, to this year's major sponsor Yogurt Mountain, each vendor had the chance to interact with thousands of students, and each student had the chance to start the year off with some free giveaways.

Students had about two hours to look around the tents and start saving spots close to the stage for the concert. The front rows were filled up by six p.m., and students continued to pack as close to the stage as they could until the show started at seven p.m. The concert began with opener Brent Cobb, a Georgia native who recently relocated to Nashville to start his career.

Then the real show started when Dierks came on stage, kicking things off with his chart-topping hit "Free and Easy." He wowed the crowd of over 2,500 with other hit songs like "What Was I Thinkin'," "Sideways," "Come a Little Closer" and his most recent single that had hit number one only days before the show, "Am I the Only One."

"All in all, we could not have asked for a better night," Oliver said. "The weather was perfect, the crowd was great, the vendors had awesome giveaways and Dierks put on a great show. We thought it was the perfect ending to the Connections experience for the freshmen and a great start to the year for the entire student body."

Dierks Bentley rocked the crowd of more than 2,500 students at the YSYC concert.



Lyndsey Misenar, Kara Parkey and Mary London Carswell enjoyed the concert after a busy Connections weekend.



Before the concerts, students enjoyed Dinner on the Dirt.





Dierks Bentley kicked off the week with a concert on the Quad.



The week provided the perfect atmosphere to reunite with friends people hadn't seen all summer.



Hilliary Hallman and Kristin Bray sold Welcome Back t-shirts, which featured Dr. Westmoreland.



welcome back week

Home Away from Home

by Riley Westmoreland

Every year the same series of phrases could be heard echoing across campus from the dorms to Ben Brown Plaza. "It's so good to see you! How was your summer?" For upperclassmen, the first week back was all about reconnecting with the friends they had been separated from for a sometimes seemingly endless summer. For freshmen, the first few days were a chance to get connected to the University community and begin to learn about the place they now called home.

These needs were met for students during Welcome Back Week. Starting on the Sunday before classes and stretching through the first week of school, Welcome Back was all about creating an atmosphere of excitement around the start of a new school year. Directors of Annual Events Sarah Waller and Karlie Calhoun, who planned the week's events on behalf of the Student Activities Council of SGA, were very pleased with how the week went.

"The week was a great success, and I give all the credit to the amazing weather," said junior journalism and mass communication major Sarah Waller. "We were able to be outside in Ben Brown everyday and didn't have to cancel or postpone anything due to rain. From Dinner on the Dirt to the movie night on the football field the atmosphere couldn't be beat."

The theme of this year's Welcome Back week was "Home Away from Home," and from the first night, students felt like that was exactly where they were. Dinner

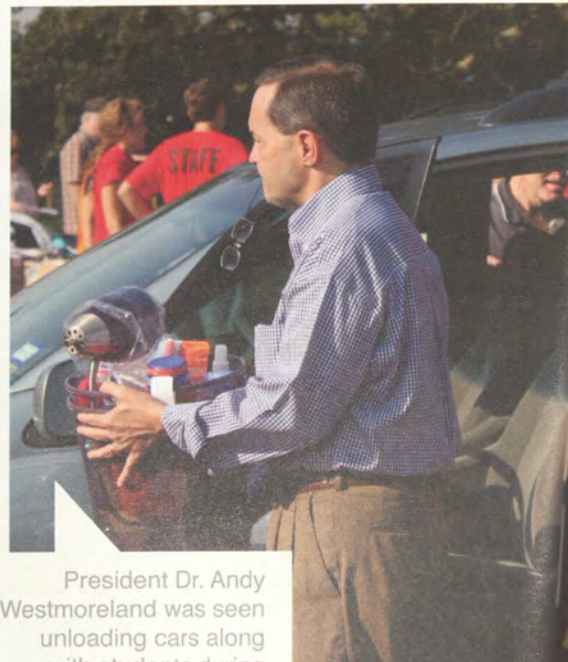
on the Dirt flowed seamlessly into Your School, Your City, helping students focus on the excitement of being at the University, distracting everyone from the fast approaching reality of classes.

However, even once class began, there were giveaways, a photo booth and lots of free food in Ben Brown daily. Students enjoyed the chance to pick up a little "freebee" in the middle of a hectic week.

"The donuts brightened up my morning," said freshman undeclared pre-medicine major Casey Cappa. "The first week was a little overwhelming with so many new things being thrown at me, and the events in Ben Brown provided a great chance to stop in the middle of your day and just hang out for a minute." Other events during the week included tournaments across the street at the new Student Recreation facility and a screening of Remember the Titans in Seibert Stadium.

"One of our goals with each event was to try to incorporate different areas of campus throughout the week," said junior biology major Karlie Calhoun. "This year we had great response from Athletics, who hosted the showing of Remember the Titans on the jumbotron at the football field, and Campus Recreation, who helped us with the basketball and sand volleyball tournaments at the new facilities. All in all, we were extremely pleased with how the week turned out."





President Dr. Andy Westmoreland was seen unloading cars along with students during move-in day.



Life as a freshman RA was always in an adventure. The RAs in Vail posed for a picture



res life

“Not only do we live with our peers and see people grow relationally and spiritually, but we have the opportunity to influence and encourage others to make Samford a better place.”

Bradley Patton

committed to serve the student body

by Laura Beth Allen

On August 26, 2011, a parade of loaded down SUVs and trucks plastered with University decals started lining around the roads of campus. They were filled with parents and freshmen waiting in anticipation as the reality of finally going to college sunk in.

Resident Assistants in brightly colored shirts wore energized and eager smiles as they welcomed the incoming class of 2014. Residence Life had worked tirelessly over the summer to prepare campus for that very moment.

Summer 2011 brought an array of welcomed improvements to the residence halls on campus. Construction on Pittman was kept on a tight schedule all summer in order to prepare fifty-six additional beds. Residents in Vail, Pittman and Evergreen were given the luxury of a kitchen to further encourage opportunities for community and to fulfill midnight cravings.

Though there are a lot of administrative duties, logistical tasks and maintenance up-keep that Res Life is in charge of, the core impact of Res Life lies directly in the hearts of the residents themselves.

Res Life really was an intricate part of the University community, said Tanya Martin, the Housing and Business Operations Coordinator. Res Life organized social events, such as the classic freshmen 90s party, Beeson Ball and other activities that promote student involvement and participation. The mission of the Res Life staff was to not only to ensure that student-housing needs

were met but also to make sure students were connected to the University community.

Res Life was more than just rule enforcement and knowing emergency procedures. Instead, it was about late night bonding trips to Sonic or sneaking into your RA's room to grab an Oreo to satisfy a chocolate craving. The organization is about being immersed in a place that was completely foreign as a freshman, yet being comforted with the knowledge that you had an RA on standby 24 hours a day.

RAs were given an opportunity to invest, grow and impact not just freshmen but their peers as well. Junior history major and RA Bradley Patton had been a RA for two years and said that the position was more than just a job.

“Not only do we live with our peers and see people grow relationally and spiritually, but we have the opportunity to influence and encourage others to make Samford a better place,” said Patton. “Having been a Freshman RA for two years, I have developed friendships with guys on my halls that will last for the rest of my life.”

Kacey Cole became the Freshmen Resident Life Coordinator after being a Samford RA herself her college years. “Even though it's cliché and cheesy, we are a family,” said Cole. With students spending about seventy-five percent of their year or more on campus, Res Life was the crucial connecting piece to nurturing a sense of home and community.

The RA's of Smith Hall had their guys compete in Smith Olympics for fun

Quiet Hours
9pm-9am

Alex Nichols

family weekend

Football, family and some good 'ole Samford pride

by Amy Vu

Hundreds of students, relatives, faculty and alumni flocked to campus for Family Weekend, an annual event hosted by the SGA in conjunction with many other organizations on campus. Great weather welcomed everyone and their families for the weekend of September 30 through October 2.

"The things that were within our control, such as the logistics for tailgating on the Quad, the setting up and tearing down, the planning and execution of events all seemed to go very smoothly," said Dr. Westmoreland.

"But the great factor beyond our control – a blue sky and perfect temperatures – probably had as much to do with the weekend's success as anything," Westmoreland said. "Speaking personally, it was a nice time for our family, even as we realized that this would be the last Family Weekend while Riley is a student at Samford."

Dr. Westmoreland was not the only proud parent on campus. For a lot of parents, especially those of freshmen, it was their first time to see how University tradition honors family, football and fun all in one weekend.

On Friday, families attended a "meet and greet" reception on Ben Brown Plaza as parents were given an opportunity to meet and talk with University professors and

faculty. Renee Vander Veer, mother of sophomore nutrition major Rebecca Vander Veer and senior classics major Nancy Vander Veer, thought very highly of the reception.

"The faculty 'meet and greet' on Friday evening was a very good idea," said Renee Vander Veer. "Getting a chance to meet faculty is a hallmark of the University. Part of the strong faculty to student relationships that are available and especially part of the family atmosphere." That evening, families came together to watch the University pull a win over the College of Charleston in womens soccer. Others gathered in Harrison Theater to watch theater students perform the award-winning play *The 39 Steps*. The play was offered again on Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday's Family Weekend agenda started bright and early with a "Rise and Shine" Zumba class, followed by a Parents' Association Meeting and open houses hosted by various organizations, including the fraternities and sororities, on campus. Then families gathered for the popular tailgate lunch on the Quad and watched the football team win over North Carolina's Gardner-Webb University, 41-14.

Denny Bubrig, the director of Greek Life, was impressed by this year's Family Weekend.

The Samford football team played against North Carolina's Gardner-Webb University and were victorious with a 41-14 win.



"Greek events during this year's Family Weekend went exceptionally well," Bubrig said. "While Greek chapter events have always happened during Family Weekend, as families enjoy visiting with the members of their students' chapters, this tradition was strengthened this year by the addition of the scheduled time for Greek

chapters to gather with their families Saturday morning in the formal Family Weekend schedule."

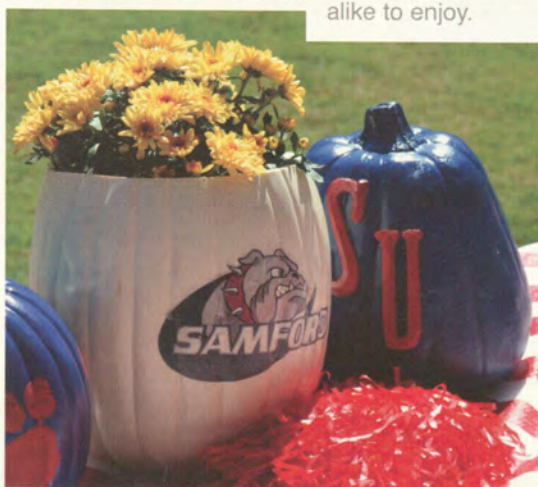
"Overall, I thought that this year's Family Weekend was the best that I have seen during my time at Samford," said Dr. Westmoreland.



Campus organizations, from ResLife to Greek Life hosted tents for parents and students alike to enjoy.



Junior Amy Nichols and her mom get a quick photo after the Color Guard performs on the Quad.



Sophomore Katy Flinn was joined by her family to enjoy food on the Quad supplied by Greek Life.





Miss Samford 2012, Sarah Kathryn Sharp, gave back to the students by serving beverages and muffins during one Fountain Funday.



Katherine Thomas was pulled back after trying to reach the end of the bungee run.



Sarah Grace Buckley encouraged students to play "Pin the tie on Dr. Westmoreland" during the president's birthday celebrations.



BEN BROWN PLAZA

Fountain Funday



Spontaneous days of fun

by Reed Richardson

The Student Activities Council recognized that whether skies were blue or gray, students enjoyed any little break from their daily routines. In order to act on this observation, the Special Events Committee of the SAC continued the tradition of sponsoring Fountain Fundays throughout the spring semester.

Junior journalism and mass communication major, as well as this year's Special Events Director, Sarah Waller explained that Fountain Fundays were random, free activities held for students in the heart of campus. "The idea behind them is to take an activity students might enjoy during a week like Homecoming or Spring Fling and place them on a random day in the school year," said Waller. "It's to encourage a great atmosphere of socializing when everyone is itching to be outside anyways."

Fountain Fundays included events like a birthday bash for President Dr. Andrew Westmoreland, free snow cones from Kona Ice, an inflatable Bungee Run and a free breakfast during finals week.

"The birthday party for Dr. Westmoreland was the first successful Fountain Funday of the year," said Waller. "The caf went above and beyond to provide a cake with Dr. Westmoreland's face on it and students made at least 300 birthday cards, which were hand-delivered to the president the day after (the event)."

In this way, students were able to celebrate an otherwise regular day but also return the gesture that Dr.

Westmoreland made when he sent every student a birthday message on their own special day.

Following the success of the birthday celebration, the "Spring Back from Spring Break" snow cone and Bungee Run event topped it as the fan favorite Fountain Funday.

"It was the best surprise to walk out of class, embrace the warm weather and enjoy a free snow cone," said freshman journalism and mass communication major Emily Sarver. "It was literally the best snow cone I have ever had and it made it feel like summer was right around the corner."

"The positive feedback exceeded my expectations—especially when I witnessed the 20-person-line waiting for the Bungee Run activity," said Waller.

The idea behind these spontaneous acts of entertainment started years before under a different name, Fountain Fridays. Members of SAC wanted the Friday events to be great starts for people's weekends, but the concept was not consistent. The idea was rejuvenated last year and given a new name, Fountain Fundays. The more generic name made it so the events could happen on any day of the week.

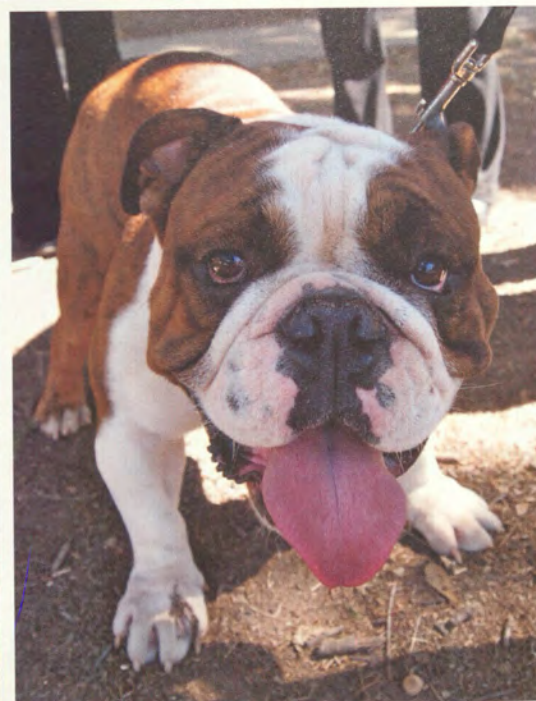
"I think the key to the events is that they are free and random," said Sarver. "Who doesn't appreciate a nice surprise once in a while? Plus, if it's free, students will come."



Brittney Harrison and Kelsey Boone hung out at the ResLife tent during the tailgate.



Tae Lewis greeted fans during the Bulldog Walk that took place before each home game.



President and Mrs. Westmoreland talked with parents and alumni during the tailgating.

tailgating

The quad squad

by Caroline Payne

In a corner of the quad on a Saturday afternoon, I observed the many groups tailgating before the game from my folding chair under the "Mississippi on the Quad" banner plastered on our tent. As a Mississippian, I had been keenly aware of the importance of tailgating before games: the setting-up process, the food, the attire and more. Just the night before I had been struggling to put up the tent with my family, and now I was able to reap the reward—my mom's home cooking.

Students' fathers passed by and chuckled, "Where is the Tennessee on the Quad tent? Alabama? Georgia?" I

gave each one a large grin and offered them my favorite homemade salsa or pork tenderloin from home. Sharing my tradition and love of tailgating with newcomers made me feel proud that my Bulldogs adopted the same passion for tailgating.

"Tailgating is such a blast," said sophomore nutrition major and cheerleader Sarah Zadick. "Moving it to the quad this year is the main reason that it has progressed to the level it has. The atmosphere has really improved so much since last year."

The parents have been a fundamental part in contributing to the new tradition's success.

"Joyce Hall, Heather Hall's mom, puts so much effort into making our cheerleading tailgate one of the best on the quad," said Zadick. "Each week she coordinates with our parents what they would like to bring and how much they should bring. Needless to say, she really goes above and beyond to make the tailgating experience awesome for all of us!"

Many other groups came out to tailgate too bringing their own food, music, and games to the pre-game atmosphere. Sororities and fraternities set up tents of their own; many with televisions set up to watch other important game-day teams. The cheerleaders and Red Sea claimed their own spots across, and the AFJROTC tent was positioned under a large oak.

"It's so great to see how the students really support their Bulldogs," said freshman journalism and mass communication major Caitlin Byrd. "I really enjoy hanging at the Phi Mu tent with my sisters. It's great to meet their families too."

One exciting new addition to tailgating this year was the Bulldog Walk. During each tailgate the football team paraded through the Quad to receive support from the fans and to get pumped up for the game.

"I absolutely love the Bulldog Walk," said Zadick. "I think it has been a really neat addition to the Samford football game atmosphere, and I can't wait to see what it will develop into in the years to come."

"Tailgating is really epic," said freshman psychology major Patrick Ramsay. "I love seeing everyone come together to hangout before the game. People from different groups and backgrounds all come together for a common cause: to cheer on the Bulldogs."



BULLDOGS

homecoming week

Forever Red and Blue, Forever SU

by Clayton Hurdle

During the week of October 24, the Student Government Association's Student Activities Council teamed up to provide the student body with a number of activities in celebration of Homecoming Week. Every day of the week, there was some form of giveaway or activity sponsored by the SAC Annual Events Committee. The Annual Events directors were junior journalism and mass communication major Sarah Waller and junior biology major Karlie Calhoun, who both worked hard through the summer to make the week a success.

"Our goal for the week was to make Homecoming as big as our budget allowed," said Waller. "When planning for activities in Ben Brown, we wanted students to walk into Ben Brown and know that something was different about this week. Whether it was the Velcro wall, the smell of fresh kettle corn or a giant high striker, we wanted to make student excited for what was going to happen next."

The week kicked off on Monday with free kettle corn and caramel apples for everyone in Ben Brown Plaza. An inflatable Velcro wall was an entertaining addition to the plaza on Monday, as students attempted to jump as high as possible before getting stuck to the wall. Monday night the committee hosted a trivia night in Harry's that spanned a variety of topics.

On Tuesday, students and faculty alike enjoyed s'mores on Ben Brown, and on Wednesday the committee served wings. Many people enjoyed their shot at eight seconds of fame on the mechanical bull, also in Ben Brown on Wednesday. That night, students gathered on the quad in front of Hodges Chapel to watch the classic film "Ferris Bueller's Day Off". On Thursday, Jim & Nick's Barbecue provided their famous cheese biscuits, and students tested their strength on a high striker in Ben Brown.

Rain on Friday did not dampen the homecoming spirit, but it did move the cupcakes and giveaways already planned from Ben Brown into Harry's Coffeehouse. Harry's was packed as students and staff entered drawings and enjoyed several types of cupcakes, and as alumni began arriving for Homecoming weekend.

The annual Homecoming bonfire took place outside of Seibert Stadium on Friday night. Some of the notable speakers at this year's bonfire included new athletic director Martin Newton, senior sports medicine major and offensive lineman for the Bulldogs Joe Collins and Bulldog football coach Pat Sullivan.

After committee members Rebecca Price and Josh Lingreen introduced the 2011 Homecoming Court and the Samford University Marching Band played the fight song several times, the giant stack of wooden pallets doused with gasoline was lit and became the main attraction of the night. While the bonfire smoldered, the rock band CALEB took the stage and played music from their upcoming album, "To the Ends of the World".

"Homecoming is a beloved time on campus for students, faculty and alumni alike," said Price, a junior economics major. "We wanted to bring a fresh look to an old tradition. We chose the theme 'Forever Red and Blue' because it was our most traditional theme. The memories made during Homecoming Week will last a lifetime."

Students enjoy a University-themed photobooth on Friday, with props like an official football jersey and game ball.



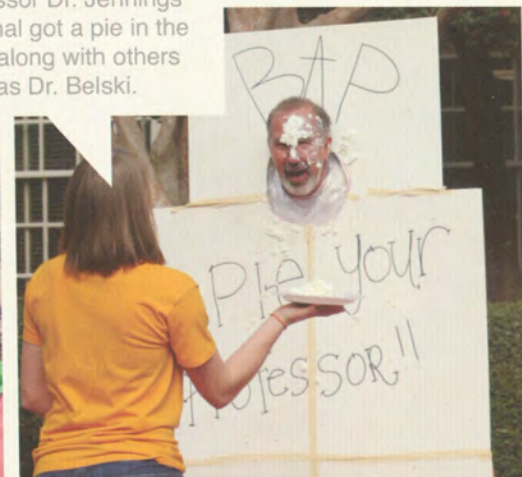
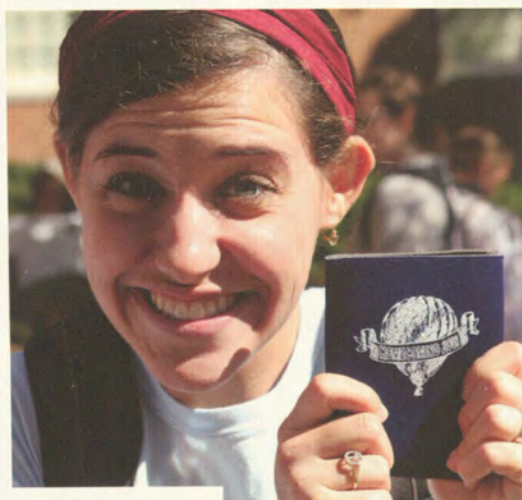
Brent Denson, David Swilley and Matt Davidson enjoyed their fresh kettle corn by the Ben Brown fountain.



The tradition of the Homecoming mechanical bull lived on with its appearance on Wednesday.

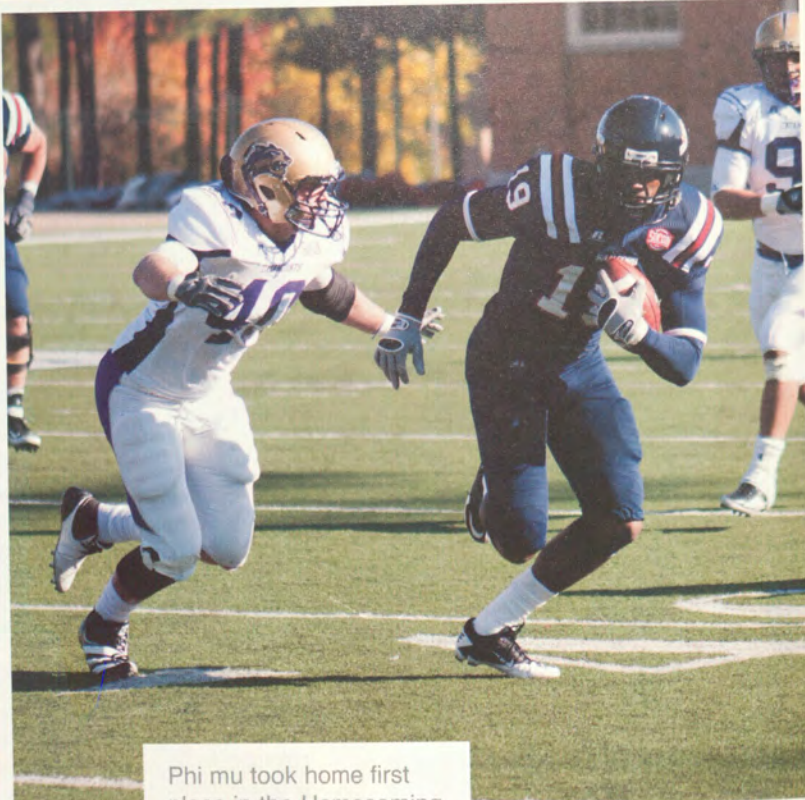


Professor Dr. Jennings Marshal got a pie in the face, along with others such as Dr. Belski.





Jeremy Towns and Elizabeth Gettys were named Homecoming King and Queen during the halftime of the football game.



Phi mu took home first place in the Homecoming float competition. The awards were announced during a timeout of the



homecoming weekend

Making and reliving memories

by Megan Thompson

What defines tradition? It is more than simply a number of festivities honoring a weekend out of the year. Tradition is more than the bells and whistles attached to a celebration. Homecoming tradition at the University was a feeling of belonging, of unity with one's fellow students. It was a reminder of times past, a chance to capture the present and a foreshadowing of the future.

During Homecoming weekend, the University community came together to share wonderful memories with a bonfire, the annual Homecoming Parade and a tailgate leading up to the Bulldogs' Homecoming game against Western Carolina.

Excitement for all of the activities rolled through campus, but it was a special guest that made this Homecoming a little different from the ones past. Presidential Republican candidate Herman Cain made a special visit to campus for a press conference. Cain also held a meet and greet as well as taking part in the game's coin toss.

After the coin toss, the winners of the float competition were announced. Phi Mu took first place while Zeta and AOPi took second and third. The competition was a close one due the increased number of floats.

"My favorite tradition about Homecoming is the parade," said junior journalism and mass communication major Sarah Waller. "This year's parade was spectacular. We had so many new groups participating, and the floats were great. It went off without a hitch."

Senior sports medicine major Jeremy Towns and economics major Elizabeth Gettys were crowned King and Queen, and they saw true meaning in the Homecoming traditions.

"Homecoming is a time of reconnecting with old friends and players," said Towns. "And for the football team, it's business as usual; it's another chance to compete in order to gain a victory for the University community."

Gettys was in awe as she secured her title.

"When they called my name, I was extremely honored," said Gettys. "Homecoming means much more than a hot air balloon ride on the quad and getting to ride in the parade in a convertible. Homecoming is about the Samford community, past and present, coming together to celebrate and remember what this school means to each one of us."



miss samford

C'est La Vie

by Caroline Payne

As the reign of Miss Samford 2011 Kelsey Richter came to an end, students and parents gathered together on Saturday, October 15, 2011 to witness the crowning of Miss Samford 2012.

Six of the University's most exemplary young women lit up the stage with their intelligence during the on-stage questions and won the audience's praises with their incredible physiques during the lifestyle and fitness competition. After their captivating performances during the talent portion, the ladies vied for the judges' votes one last time during evening wear.

Senior sports medicine major Christina Myers won the lifestyle and fitness award and also won second-runner-up, and sophomore nursing and pre-med major Liz Zegler took first-runner-up.

But the crown had a different young lady in mind: junior family studies major Sarah Kathryn Sharp. Sharp also took the title of Miss Congeniality and won the talent award for playing "Blue Monk" by Thelonious Monk on the bass clarinet.

Most important to Sharp was her platform, the Dysautonomia Youth Network of America. She was personally affected by this disease, and her goal is to raise awareness within the education system and in the community.

"I chose my platform because Dysautonomia is the disorder that I have struggled with for seven years," said Sharp. "It is a dysfunction of the autonomic nervous system."

Sharp also said that around one million Americans struggle with the disorder, a number comparable to Autism, Muscular Dystrophy and Multiple Sclerosis.

Also competing in the pageant were sophomore early-childhood and special collaborative education major Rebekah Harris, sophomore theatre major Ellen Hardy and senior biology major Kristyn Jones.

Emcee for the night was sophomore theatre major Christian Noojin, joined by Miss Alabama 2011 Courtney Porter, who took the title on the very same stage just four months earlier.

Three student directors were responsible for the success of the show: director of production Weathers Veazey, director of operations Karlle Calhoun and director of contestants Jane Alice Moore.

"Being a director was a lot of work, but it was so much fun," said Calhoun, a junior biology major and director

of Annual Events for the Student Activities Council. "We had practice almost every night, but I loved being able to meet the girls that were in the pageant. I was very pleased with the end result."

"Each year, the pageant has grown," said Calhoun. "And this year we had more than 350 people there. Sarah Kathryn is a great Miss Samford, and I can't wait to see her in Miss Alabama. I know that she will do great."

Sharp said she could not be more thrilled to represent the University in Miss Alabama.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to represent the university that has given me countless opportunities to achieve things that, for me, were once unachievable," said Sharp. "The supportive and encouraging environment at Samford is truly unique and has made an incredible impact on my life. I feel honored to be the Samford representative at the Miss Alabama Pageant in June 2012."





The pageant was run by three student directors: Karlie Calhoun, Weathers Veasy and Jane Alice Moore.



Along with Miss Samford, Anna Laura Bryan, Kelsey Ritcher and Lauren Hunt competed in the Miss Alabama pageant that summer.



Rebekah Harris performed her talent during the Miss Samford pageant.



Christmas

at samford



It's that time of year at Samford University!

by Lauren Kostoff

It was that time of year. Between theatre productions, choir performances, countless decorations, festive parties and thousands of little lights, it was quite clear to all when Christmas arrived on campus.

When thinking of the University at Christmas time countless events come to mind, like Hanging of the Green and Lighting of the Way.

"My favorite Samford Christmas tradition would have to be Lighting of the Way," said junior history major Anna Beth Sawyer. "I think it is so amazingly awesome that we get the chance to come together as a university in fellowship and listen to the Christmas story while admiring beautiful Christmas lights, which is my absolute favorite part of Christmas."

Junior business major Anna Boyd also enjoyed the long-standing tradition of Lighting of the Way. "It's always fun to meet your friends at the Christmas tree when they light it for the first time and sing Christmas songs to get you in the mood for the holidays," said Boyd.

The University community also got into the Christmas spirit with the School of the Arts' production of *White Christmas*. The theatre department helped the University and Birmingham audiences alike feel the holiday cheer with the shows. Friday night's show sold out the Wright Center, which set a new record for the department. The production ended with the entire audience singing along to timeless holiday music, and the curtain closed with a resounding



Act of Congress led a cheerful and festive performance as students drank hot cocoa in Ben Brown.



Rachel Snyder was one of the few seniors selected to participate in Hanging of the Green.



Kristen Skov, Katie Quinn and Eleanor Stenner experienced Christmas at the University for the first time.



Students celebrated the season at one of the many Christmas parties on campus.

applause and standing ovation from the crowd. It was a Christmas event the University had never seen, making it a big success.

The University at Christmas time was also appreciated in the little details, especially during finals. "I love being able to get donuts and milk at night during finals week," said junior elementary education major Tatum Moffett. "It is one of the things that keep me focused on studying because I know I will have a break."

Christmas time at the University was special to each student in different ways. Even though most students were wrapped up in finals and a little distracted with studying, the Christmas spirit still permeated the campus, and it was seen in countless ways. Students gathered to sing around the Christmas tree, and thousands of lights, yards and yards of garland and countless wreaths covered the campus. The University was truly lit from within at Christmas time.



SWEEPSTAKES

DAP took home the trophy for the third straight year

by Amy Vu

In those three weeks following Jan Term, the University became consumed with one thing: Step Sing. Nights were dedicated to practice, lunches were spent discussing themes and the weekend of February 16 was all about Sweepstakes. In the end, Dudes-A-Plenty and their gold rush themed-show walked away with the Sweepstakes trophy, a three-peat for the group.

Dudes-A-Plenty also earned the excellence award for music and choreography and the participants' choice award for music. Directing this year was senior journalism and mass communications major Matt Wambles. "I personally loved Step Sing this year, for obvious reasons. With this being my senior year, I can't think of a better way to go out, and with the new ability to add your own emcees, I think that the creativity abounded. I could not have asked for a better song list, choreography, or, really, a better group of Dudes to participate with for my final year," said Wambles.

IGNite (independents and Greeks united), one of the new groups to take to the Step Sing stage, took first runner-up with "Nun of Your Business." The group also received the participants' choice award for overall show and excellence awards for choreography and theme. Second runner-up Zeta Tau Alpha presented "Stomp the Yard," about skeletons coming to life. The group also received participants' choice awards for costumes and choreography.

As usual, the participants of Step Sing included students who were new to the tradition. "Step Sing 2012 gave me the chance to be a star. The lights, the cameras, the crowd – I loved the big time atmosphere at the Wright Center," said Freshman Lady and biology major Meg Scott.

This year's production was named "Rebuilt" and was overseen by three Samford students. Senior journalism and mass communications major Matt Davidson served as director of production. There were some marked changes from tradition, one being that each participating group provided one or two emcees for its show. A new award, Best of the Emcees, was presented to junior biology major Taylor Horneman, who played Willy Wonka for Chi Omega's "The Factory." In addition, the Saturday night performance was available on an internet live-stream for those who could not get tickets.

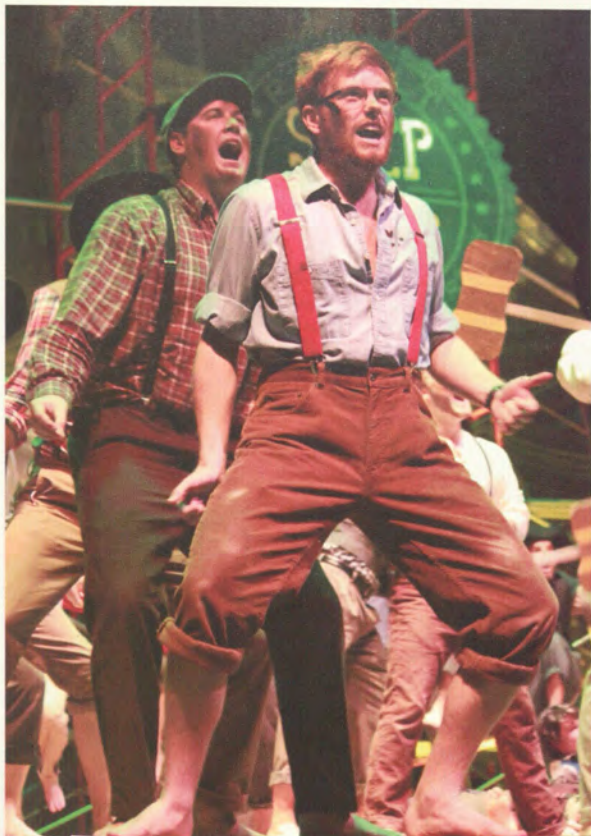
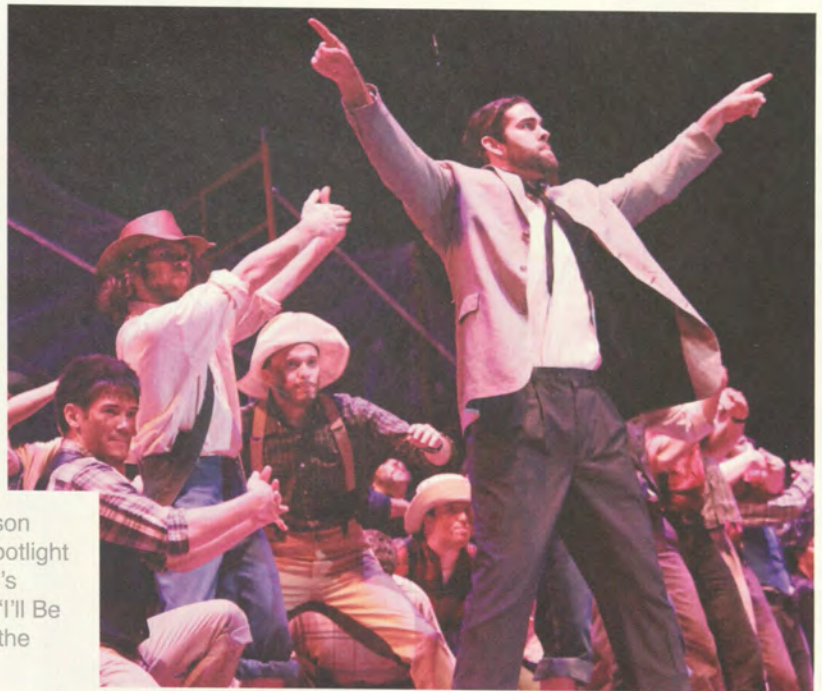
"We were very pleased with the overall execution of this year's show, especially with the addition of the new emcees. We were also pleased with having over 700 streams with the live stream feature for Saturday night's performance. I personally enjoyed being behind the scenes and taking on the creative, big picture roll of Step Sing this year," said Davidson.

The proceeds from this year's ticket sales and donations went to nearby Cornerstone Schools of Alabama. The program was founded in order to create a Christ-centered learning environment for inner-city children in the Birmingham area.

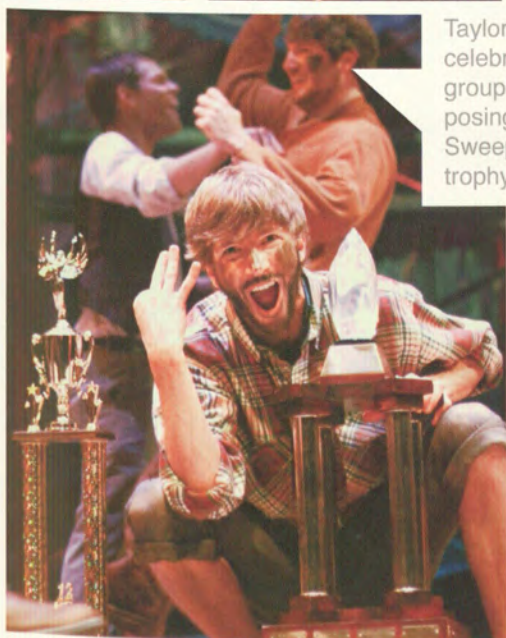




Steven Stinson stole the spotlight during Dude's rendition of "I'll Be Working on the Railroad."



DAP's show ended with a simple formation, reminding everyone who they were if they didn't already know.



Taylor Horne celebrated the group's victory posing with the Sweepstakes trophy.





step sing

Profiles

by Reed Richardson

Freshman Girls

"The Land Down Under"

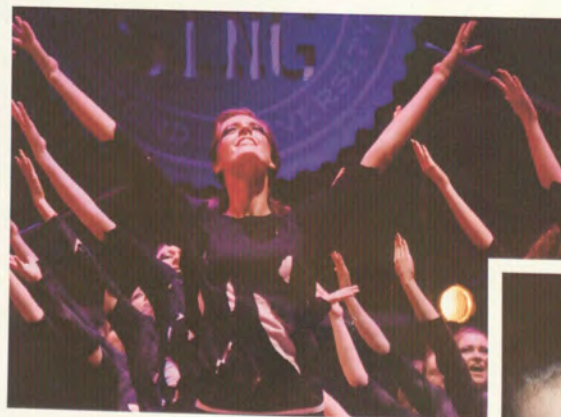
The 2012 Step Sing performance included not one, but two freshman women shows. The first group, Freshman Girls, kicked off each night, taking audience members to "The Land Down Under" the sea. The Freshman Girls reminded viewers how life is better down where it's wetter, cleverly highlighting ocean scenes from well-known movies like "Jaws," "Titanic" and "The Little Mermaid."



AOII

"The End"

The sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi presented a Step Sing show inspired by the Mayan calendar's prediction for the end of the world in the year 2012. The show titled, "The End," took viewers to the edge of the world and the edge of their seats, offering a glimpse of how the sisters of AOII would spend their last day on earth. Despite the more serious theme, the sorority ended the competition on a lighter note, winning the overall community service award for the event's philanthropy, Cornerstone Schools of Birmingham.



IGNite

"None of Your Business"

This year's production included a brand new show open to all women on campus. The purpose of the group was to bring more unity among Independent and Greek girls on campus, thus the name, "IGNite." IGNite truly did ignite on stage, earning first runner-up along with a handful of other awards like the participant's choice award for most entertaining. Their theme "None of Your Business" kept everyone laughing as seventy girls clad in black and white habits sang and danced to numbers like "Single Ladies" by Beyoncé and "Livin' on a Prayer" by Bon Jovi.

Zeta Tau Alpha

"Stomp the Yard"

They came, they crept and they conquered. The sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha showed what goes down at the graveyards in the dead of night with their show, "Stomp the Yard." Quite a fright in black and white makeup, teased-out hair and skeleton outfits, the ladies not only took home the award for participant's choice best costume and choreography, but also second runner-up in the overall competition. Songs included Michael Jackson's "Thriller" and their version of Kanye West's "Gold Diggers."



Alpha Delta Pi

"The Scholarship Program"

The sequined costumes and the inner-divas of the Alpha Delta Pi sisters shone brightly on stage as the group presented their Step Sing show about beauty pageants...or rather scholarship programs. The ADPI ladies brought their pretty, their poise and their girl power, featuring comical references to "Miss Congeniality" throughout. Most of all, "The Scholarship Program" reminded viewers that the only thing society truly needs is world peace.



Pi Kappa Phi

"Hoodwinked"

For the 2012 Step Sing show, the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi pulled on their tight tights and rounded up Little John and the Merry Men to relive the tale of the brave Robin Hood. Their show, "Hoodwinked," followed Robin Hood as he managed to steal for the poor, find true love, and pay his taxes all in the same day. The brothers thoroughly entertained audience members and were also applauded for their creativity, winning first place in the Banner Drop competition at the start of the Step Sing season.



Independent Ladies

"Are You Afraid of the Dark?"

Independent Ladies channeled their inner eerie for Step Sing 2012. In their show "Are You Afraid of the Dark?" they demonstrated how a paradise of dreams can quickly turn sour in the dark of the night. The group of women encouraged dreamers to "Dream On," with a soulful rendition of Aerosmith's hit melody, but warned them of the creepy crawlies and shadows of the night that are always lurking nearby.



Freshman Ladies

"Let the Games Begin"

The Freshman Ladies set fire to the flame of enthusiasm for the 2012 Summer Olympics with their show, "Let the Games Begin." Dressed in black, yellow, blue, red and green, the seventy girls morphed into numerous formations like the Olympic torch and the famous Olympic rings and sang songs like "Set Fire to the Rain" by Adele and "Never Say Never" by Justin Bieber.



Phi Mu

"Into the Woods"

The sisters of Phi Mu ventured deep "Into the Woods" for Step Sing 2012. The ladies followed Hansel and Gretel's escape from the evil witch's gingerbread house and journeyed with them as they worked their way back home. Hansel and Gretel encountered fairytale after fairytale, bumping into characters like Sleeping Beauty and Little Red Riding Hood. They even spotted smooth criminals like the Big Bad Wolf as he terrorized the three little pigs. And who can forget how they turned the chorus of the "WOP" to "Wolf, wolf, wolf!"

AAA/GSS

"User-Friendly"

In this day and age, technology is a part of everyday life. So, the cast of AAA joined forces with the sisters of Gamma Sigma Sigma to create the show, "User Friendly." Inspired from the movie, "Tron", participants absorbed themselves in the techno world, fighting the battle of humanity versus technology, one break-dance at a time. Despite being the smallest group, they made sure their voices were heard up in the balcony.



Sigma Chi

"Rise of the Phoenix"

Sigma Chi fully embraced the "Avatar" saga in their 2012 Step Sing show, "Rise of the Phoenix." Decked out in loincloths and blue skin, the brothers of Sigma Chi told the story of a human mixed into the world of the Avatar creatures. The reenactment was no doubt a crowd pleaser and had the entire audience clapping and singing along, especially to songs like "A Place in this World" by Michael W. Smith and "Blue (De Ba Dee)" by Eiffel 65.

Chi O "The Factory"

Who can take a sunrise, sprinkle it with dew? The sisters of Chi Omega know who! The Candy Man. With golden ticket in hand, Chi Omega took Step Sing viewers on a tour of Willy Wonka's wonderland in "The Factory." Willy Wonka himself led Charlie and the gang through the golden gates to witness chocolate rain, life-size blueberries and of course a bronzed clan of Oompa Loompas.



University Ministries "Ninja"

In University Ministries' Step Sing show, "Ninja," everybody was kung fu fighting and creeping all over the place. The UM participants brought as much spirit and laughs as last year, but they also stepped up the competition including multiple flips and stunts in their performance that awed the audience members every time. Master Matt Kerlin trained his grasshoppers well.

Dudes-A-Plenty "Rush"

The 2012 Step Sing show marked a significant year for this group of all male independents. For the third year in a row, Dudes-A-Plenty nabbed the coveted Sweepstakes trophy and title with their show "Rush." Acting as railroad workers headed west in search of gold, these miners didn't have to act at all like they were having a good time on stage. Highlights included the men singing Mumford and Son's "The Cave" and a dub-step, panning for gold dance break. Along with Sweepstakes, DAP took home the award for Excellence in Music and tied with IG-nite for Excellence in Choreography.





easter

at Samford

Solidifying new traditions by building community

by Lauren Kostoff

As students lined Centennial Walk, the tension was high. Before them were more than 2,000 Easter eggs, full of candy, gift cards and within one, a voucher redeemable for a free iPad. As the library bells signaled 6 p.m., the crowd erupted, charging up the Quad and grabbing as many eggs as they could.

After a great success the previous year, the Easter Egg Hunt made its second appearance, solidifying itself in University history.

The hunt began on Centennial Walk, and from there the frantic excitement began as students hunted for eggs. Students lined up hours before the event even began to secure their place behind the yellow tape, awaiting the moment to jolt through and begin collecting eggs.

One student's take on the madness and fun of the Easter Egg Hunt was a fitting comparison to the novel-turned movie *The Hunger Games*.

"Competing in the Easter Egg Hunt this year was rather like being in the *Hunger Games*," said junior history major Margaret Frymire. "Everyone was lined up behind

the tape, throwing bows and edging their feet forward. When the whistle blew, it was mass chaos."

"Realizing the odds were not in my favor, I ran away from the cornucopia, I mean eggs, and toward Ben Brown where free grilled dinner with no line awaited me," said Frymire jokingly.

Even if the eggs did not contain an iPad, students were still able to enjoy a delicious catered dinner by Tip Top Grill and spend time together on a perfect night in Ben Brown.

Days later, students came together and hosted the second Campus Wide Worship. Uniting the many campus ministries, students gathered in Reid Chapel on the Monday night following Easter to worship, to listen and to pray. "It is was an amazing experience to join with fellow believers on campus to celebrate the day that defines the Christian faith," said Rachel Gregory, a sophomore nursing major.

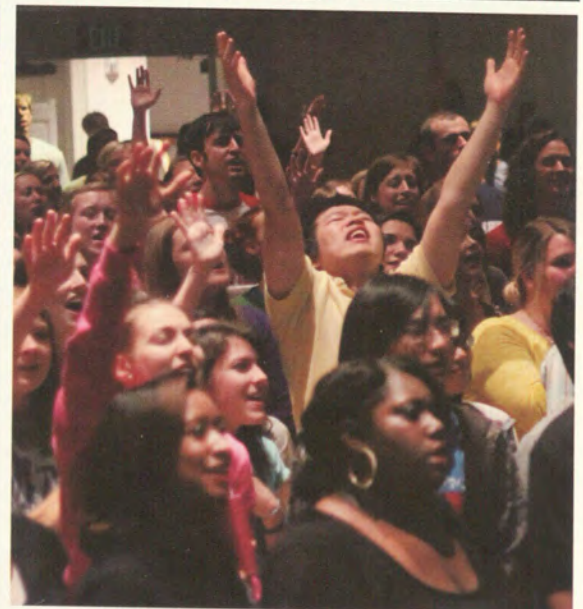
With its second year in the books, the Easter Egg Hunt and Campus Wide Worship were quickly becoming University favorites.



Students from all denominations and backgrounds came together for one purpose during Campus Wide Worship.



It only took 60 seconds for all 2000 eggs to be picked up after students began the stampede on the Quad.



Tim Foote proudly showed off his bounty of eggs with various prize slips inside.

Campus Wide Worship brought a community together in prayer in Reid Chapel.



SAMFORD GIVES BACK



■ Samford

gives back

Humbly serving the community

by Laura Beth Allen



Once in the fall and once in the spring, students traded a Saturday morning of typical freedom for a morning of service. Instead of rolling back the covers after a much needed 11 hours of sleep, students woke up early on December 3 and April 14 in order to embrace community and service with one another.

Samford Gives Back provided an opportunity for students who typically spent their days trekking across the Quad back and forth to classes, caught in the midst of schedules, to see beyond their realm of familiarity and encompass themselves into the larger community of the city of Birmingham.

Physical projects and activities were planned in advance for that day, but Shannon Moore, a junior geography major, saw that there was more to it than just logistical planning and getting Convo credits or service hours.

"The service day is an incredible opportunity to talk to people who live or work at these sites every day and to learn about their lives," said Moore. "It gives you a new perspective on what service and community really look like."

Sharing the opening statements for the morning, Leah Clements, a junior religion major, opened with Luke 10, calling the students' attention to Christ's true desire of us. While we were his workmanship and called to participate in crucial works for the glory of the Kingdom, the passage reminded students to be like Mary who simply waited at Jesus' feet. The work has already been accomplished by way of the cross, yet, we had the privilege to continue to be a part in God's story.



Students worked in a variety of communities, including areas hit by the recent tornados.



Leah Schroepfer and Tabitha Whitacre worked with their fellow Chi Omega sisters at Youth Serve.



Groups gathered in the Pete Hanna Center for breakfast and a short devotional before heading out to work.

Samford Gives Back provided an opportunity not just to serve, but to also listen, observe and be educated on different communities of need around the city, where there are pockets of people simply aching to have their voice heard above the masses. Groups spread all over the city working with organizations and schools, such as Habitat for Humanity and Cornerstone.

Sophomore nursing major Rachel Wheeler was blessed by her experience. "Avail taught me how much of an impact taking the time to get to know the homeless can

have on one's well-being," said Wheeler. "Working with Avail changed my entire perspective of the houseless community, and I hope to spread their stories so that more people can be benefited from the work they are doing in the community."

Samford Gives Back gave students a chance to step back and give a voice to the voiceless, to cast aside temporary afflictions, to break bondages of judgment and a chance to fight for justice and restoration of those who have been society's outcasts.



Lauren Barry was a regular around Harry's Coffeehouse, opening for bands like Seryn.



With a concert every other week, students packed out Harry's to hear their favorite artists or ones they had heard for the first time.



Elenowen, known for participating in the singing competition show, *The Voice*, was the headliner for Harry's Octoberfest show in Ben Brown.



The eclectic group, Seryn, awed the audience with their unique style and diverse, yet unified voices.

harry's coffeehouse

Soulful music and always free coffee and cookies

by Laura Beth Allen

"I want you to live forever, underneath the sky so blue," were words that echoed from Harry's Coffeehouse this past fall when Drew Holcomb and the Neighbors took center stage, and students were instantly enamored with the loving, dynamic husband and wife duo.

With a strong guitar foundation and unique lyrics that resounded of life and redemptive love, they captured the stage. Music addicts listening in for relatable lyrics and a new favorite song to download packed Harry's all year long.

On an average day, Harry's was filled with a constant flow of students who came for last minute cramming sessions or to share conversation with a friend over café mocha. But on Thursday nights, a different atmosphere seemed to arise.

Sponsored by the Student Government Association, artists were brought throughout the semester

I believe that Harry's Coffeehouse unites the student body by bringing students together from all walks of life for the sheer fact of enjoying music together.

Trevor Starnes

and students had the opportunity to attend free concerts that provided a chance to escape from hectic college schedules.

Artists Elenowen and Andrew Ripp were also featured in the fall semester. However, the stage was not only graced with the presence of guest artists but by talented students as well.

After the fall semester, Harry's underwent some renovations. Junior journalism and mass communication major Stephen Stinson was excited for the change and even more excited for the artists coming for the bi-weekly series.

"We're really excited about Harry's this year because we've spent months completely renovating the stage and sound system and (also booked) the best possible roster for the spring," said Stinson. "We've been really lucky being able to book up-

and-coming bands that are right on the edge of making it big. Plus, it's special, because not many other colleges have something like this."

In the spring, guests of Harry's heard the music of Jenny and Tyler, The Careful Ones, Matthew Mayfield, Caleb, Seryn and Jillian Edwards. The stage also hosted Battle of the Bands, where groups competed to impress listeners and judges with their note-playing abilities and vocal skills. Bands were able to experience performing in an intimate stage setting while receiving support from fellow friends and classmates.

Trevor Starnes, a senior history major and vice president of events for SGA, thought Harry's Coffeehouse had a significant impact on the student body.

"I believe that Harry's Coffeehouse unites the student body by bringing students together from all walks of life for the sheer fact of enjoying music together," said Starnes. "Students just have to show up. They do not have to do anything. It's free enjoyment, and students always compliment on the nice Thursday breaks from studying."

Students all sought relief from stress and overwhelming agendas in various ways. Conveniently, Harry's offered a place where, over a steaming espresso and gathering of friends, moments of peace and rejuvenation could be found.

We not only wanted to leave a legacy of winning championships, but more importantly, we wanted to have fun and build friendships out in a competitive environment.
Will Cohen



2E posed for a picture at the football field after another intramural win.



Lindy Steele played with her Zeta Tau Alpha sisters for the flag football season.



Katy Flinn and Caroline Noland participated in Quidditch, one of the newest intramural sports this year.



Campus Rec intramurals

A little friendly competition

by Hilliary Hallman

Intramurals were once again a hit. The different sports provided students an outlet to let out some steam from classes and to enjoy a little friendly competition.

Campus Rec had a turning point as one group of students, known as "2E" made history in the University's intramurals.

Captain Will Cohen said the team was named after his and some of his teammates' hall freshman year in Smith, Second East.

The team, comprised of Cohen, David Swilley, Brent Denson, Tanner Fox, Jake Albert, Jonathan Smalley, Matt Hester, Riley Dyer, Chase Fleming, Tyler Core, Lauren Cole, Megan Dunn, Courtney Phillips, Lindsey Jackson, Tori Bragg and Bekah Larson, won over 20 championships during their intramural career. This year, the team was the champion of flag football, volleyball and ultimate frisbee.

"Intramurals here at Samford have been incredible," said Cohen, a senior sports administration major. "It's been great to play some competitive sports, as well as, fellowship and have a great time with friends."

Aside from conquering the fields at the University, 2E also represented the school in regional competition.

Pete Becker, assistant director of campus recreation, said the campus rec staff was delighted to sponsor 2E and send them to compete in Tuscaloosa for a flag football tournament. Intramural teams from all over the south went to compete, and 2E was able to win a few games. Cohen said it was fun, rewarding and a great way to wrap up his intramural career at the University.

"We not only wanted to leave a legacy of winning championships," said Cohen, "but more importantly, we wanted to have fun and build friendships out in a competitive environment."

Flag football

Men A- 2E

Men B- *Soul Survivors*

CoRec- *2E and Friends*

Women A- *Blitz*

Women B- *Norfleete*

Volleyball

Men A- 2E

Men B- *It's Just a Game*

CoRec- *2E and Friends*

Women A- *Ace Inhibitors*

Women B- *The Compounds*

Tennis

Men Singles- *Graham Laws*

Women Singles- *Emily Westray*

Women Doubles- *Allen*

Ultimate Frisbee

Men- 2E

CoRec- *2E and Friends*

Women- *Raging Unipegesi*

Basketball

Men A- *White Boys Can't Jump*

Men B- *We Ball Hard*

CoRec- *Heat*

Women A- *Game Over*

Women b- *Black Box Warning*

Soccer

Men A- *Whoever Shows Up*

Men B- *Lho Chi*

CoRec- *Mia Hamburglers*

Women A- *ADPi*

Women B- *Black Box Warning*

Flag football kicked off the intramural season, and teams came out ready to fight for a victory.



spring fling

Creating amazing days in Ben Brown

by Amy Vu

As the temperatures slowly began to look like summer, Ben Brown came to life with the activities of Spring Fling. Planned under the Annual Events Committee on SGA's Student Activities Council, the week provided a quality break from class and assignments and time to simply hang out with friends.

The week was jammed packed. The Spring Fling Flea Market was brought back for its second year, providing the opportunity for students to sell their handmade goods and solidifying the event as a new University tradition. Wing Fling with its 2500 chicken wings was passed out on Wednesday, and Battle of the Bands took place that night in coincidence with Campus Rec sponsored paintball at the intramural field pavilion. Seven bands participated in the concert that showcases student talent. The band Mike and Ike took first place. With free cupcakes, inflatable, balloon artist and more, the week was full of events for students to enjoy.

"Spring Fling is a great event for campus as we get ready to wrap up the semester before the craziness of finals starts," said Nicole Bader, a sophomore journalism major and Director of Annual Events. "My favorite event is the flea market, because it brings so many different students to Ben Brown to showcase the things they make. And a lot of the students use it as a way to raise support for summer mission trips, so it's a great opportunity to support your friends and peers as well."

On Thursday night, Switchfoot took the stage in the Pete Hanna Center to play for a huge University crowd. When planning what artist to bring to campus, SAC looked closely at the SGA survey that is published each year, which asks students what activities and bands they want to see. "Switchfoot was one of the bands in the top five," said Karlie Calhoun, a junior biology major and the other Director for Annual Events.

The band, famous for songs like "Dare you to Move," took full advantage of the large venue. The lead singer, Jon Forman, even walked out to the audience and sung among the crowd. A major highlight of the concert was when Spike the Bulldog joined Switchfoot on stage for a song.

Planning for the Spring Fling and the concert started in the fall semester, so those behind the events put in a lot of hours before the week even took place. But for the members of SAC, it was a rewarding experience. "I love planning Spring Fling from behind the scenes," said Bader. "You get to see a different side from everything, being involved with the planning from the very beginning. It's a great opportunity to serve the students here and makes me appreciate the work that goes into it all."



Craig Millard beat Trevor Starnes at a friendly match of sumo wrestling in Ben Brown.

Caroline Noland used the Spring Fling Flea Market to raise money for missions.



Mike and Ike were the winners of the annual Battle of the Bands concert, which took place across the street at the intramural fields.



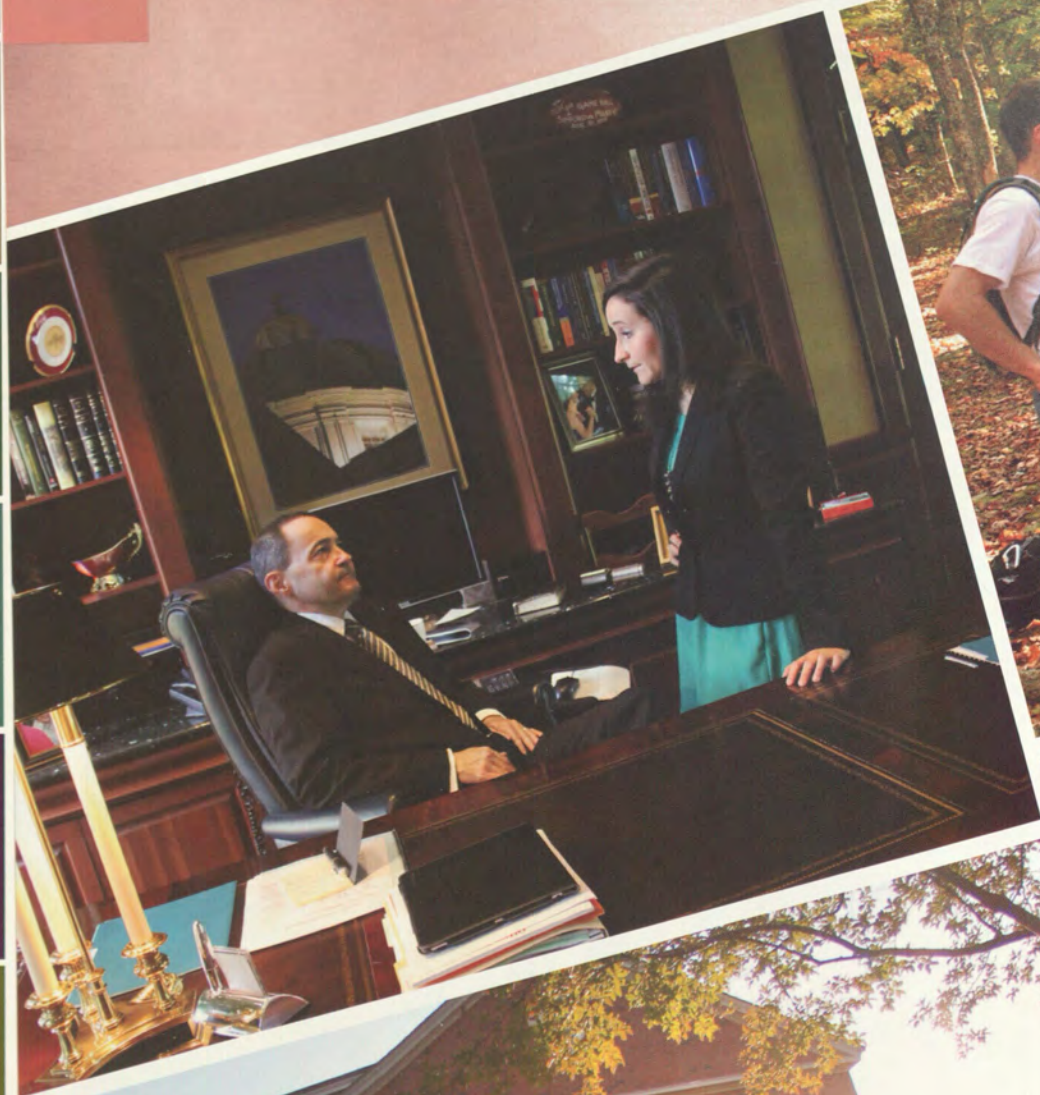
Switchfoot put on an amazing performance on the Pete Hanna stage.



2011-2012



The world around us is always changing. We grew up, we graduated, and we entered the real world. Whether you were a freshman, a sophomore, a junior or a senior, each year was a unique experience, providing new challenges and new rewards. We were there to declare today, to freeze the moment in time, so in years to come, you would look back and say, "Oh, I remember when that happened." Today was constantly moving, constantly changing. And like Ferris always said, "If you don't stop and look around, you might miss it."





011-2012

declare
today



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samford

in the world

by Sarah Waller

Appalachian Trail record holder returned to campus

After setting the record for assisted thru-hike of the complete Appalachian Trail in 46 days, 11 hours and 20 minutes, Jennifer Pharr Davis returned to her alma mater to share her story. She spoke during convocation, as well as led an overnight hiking trip with students one weekend in the fall.



Dr. Chew won Professor of the Year

Dr. Stephen Chew, a beloved psychology professor and department chair, was named the 2011 U.S. Professor of the Year for Master's Universities and Colleges by the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching. Though many Samford professors have won prestigious awards, Chew was the first to have been selected for this high honor. Chew accepted the award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

A Cappella Choir sought victory in France

With the school year finished, the University A Cappella Choir traveled to Tours, France to compete in the Florilège Vocal de Tours competition. Choir director Philip Copeland said the choir's final performance was the best they had ever done, and the judges agreed. The choir won first prize in the Renaissance Competition and in the Free Expression category. Outside of competition, the outstanding international choir experienced the country of France, visiting the sites and performing in local churches.



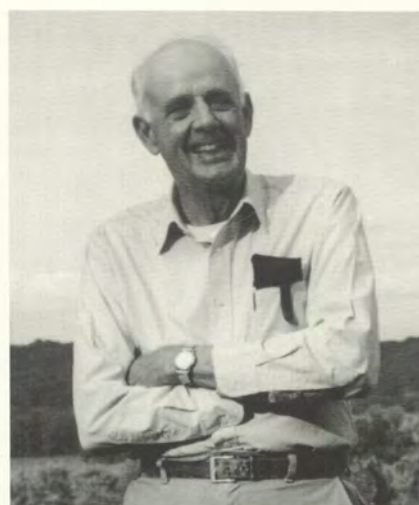


Corey White drafted by the Saints

The New Orleans Saints in the fifth round of the 2012 National Football League Draft selected graduate Corey White. Making him the highest draft pick in University history, White was the 162nd overall pick in the Draft. He became the fourth University student to be selected to play in the NFL. White, who played safety for the University, made his teammate proud at the NFL Scouting Combine with the second best vertical jump among safeties. His teammates gathered in the food court to cheer him on during the Combine and proudly boasted about him weeks after the Draft.

Wendell Berry visited Samford

Celebrated writer, philosopher, farmer, environmentalist and social activist Wendell Berry came to the University as the guest speaker for the Thomas and Marla Corts Distinguished Author series. More than 1,000 people attended the event in the Wright Center where Berry spoke on topics like religion, writing and humanity. He even recited his story, "Sold," which was published in *The Atlantic* last year.



Campus featured in October Baby

The University's campus was immortalized in film when directors Jon and Andy Erwin brought the filming of their movie *October Baby* to campus last year. After a limited release in the fall, the University helped host the movie's world premiere in Birmingham in the spring. The movie's final scene takes place in Sherman Circle with Samford Hall in the background. The on-campus filming allowed students to take part behind the camera as production support as well as in front of the camera as extras.

Brandon Miller became the highest draft pick in University history

The University baseball team captured the attention of the sports world when they won the SoCon tournament and then defeated Mississippi State twice, knocking them out of the NCAA tournament. Though their season would later end after losing to Florida State, the baseball world had already made plans for several Bulldog players. During the Major League Baseball Draft, seven players were selected. Brandon Miller was the 144th overall pick, chosen by the Washington Nationals in the fourth round. He became the highest draft pick in University history. This followed his home-run leading season, holding the record at 23. The Orioles selected Lex Rutledge in the sixth round, and the Cleveland Indians took Josh Martin during the tenth round. Tyler Vanderheiden, Joseph Burns, Saxon Bulter and Charles Basford were all selected on the final day of the draft.



Life in new

pittman

The same shell but a whole new interior

by Sarah Waller

As the construction came to an end days before the start of the fall term, students walked into J.D. Pittman Residence Hall with their mouths opened in shock. Pittman was no longer filled with decaying walls, moldy bathrooms and creepy hallways. Instead, everything that once made up Pittman was gone, completely gutted during the renovation process. The interiors were completely new—new walls, new bathrooms and even a new addition.

The new addition added 56 new beds to the building, removing the University's Health Services and adding a community kitchen as well as study rooms.

Liz Vincent, a junior pharmacy major, lived in Pittman for the past three years. "As an RA, I turn in far fewer maintenance requests," she said. "I could go on and on about how great the renovations were. I really like the thermostats instead of wall units, the first floor lobby, the fourth floor study room, the kitchen, the cleanliness and the lack of mold."

From the interior, the only clue of old Pittman that remained was the painted-over brick wall that showed the divider between the original building and the new addition.

"The improvements have been marvelous. It is a whole new building," said junior fine arts and marketing major Kaleigh Warwick. As someone who lived there before and after the renovations, she recognized that the best part about living in Pittman still remained. "It is in the middle of campus, and you are close to all of your

classes. That is the real perk of Pittman Hall, and that has been the same since before the renovations."

Due to the demand of on-campus living, the majority of students who lived in Pittman were upperclassmen, compared to being mainly a freshmen residence hall in the past. And though Pittman did not feature the suite-

I have grown really close to the people on my hall. We even started a weekly Bible study, a time set apart to talk and connect each week.

Madi Dominescy

style living like in Beeson Woods, residences embraced Pittman's smaller size to create a more family-feel. "I feel like it was easier to get to know people in Pittman compared to when I lived in Vail," said sophomore nursing major Makenna Lang. "Pittman just creates a different kind of dynamic."

"I have grown really close to the people on my hall," said sophomore international relations major Madi Dominescy. "We even started a weekly Bible study, a time set apart to talk and connect each week."

Just because Pittman was brand new didn't mean it didn't still have its characteristic touches. The creepy attic on the fourth floor may be gone, but with the addition, the "trough," as Warwick called it, was created outside the first floor windows. "It is perfect for setting up hammocks and hanging out outside," said Warwick.

From once being referred to as the "arm-pit" of campus, J.D. Pittman Residence Hall received a transformational face-lift, creating a place for students to live, make memories and establish quality friendships.



Pittman RA Liz Vincent led a hall activity to visit Taco Camp, but were disappointed to find it closed.



Karena McDonald shared her joy for Pittman.



Pittman RA, Katy Flinn helped host the Pittman House of Pancakes for residents.



Changes in the Caf

and other campus renovations

by Sarah Waller

Standing there in shock, students didn't know what to do. It was changed. It was different. Someone had brought in these booths and moved the round tables away from the center of the Caf. Students looked around for hidden cameras. Was this some sort of social experience?

The changes the University made to the campus were subtle but important. From new bathrooms in Smith Residence Hall to a fresh coat of paint in the University Center's food court, the improvements made to the campus helped make it look more like new.

With the largest amount of student traffic, the changes to the Caf did not go unnoticed. First, they brought in the booths to a happy reception of students, but then they switched the long tables and the round tables, removing the round tables from the center of the room and pushing them to the outskirts. Being people of habit, this was not an accepted change. "It was so strange," said sophomore business major Drew Hall. "When you eat there everyday, you tend to sit down at the same few tables. When you walk into the Caf, you look at those tables to find your friends. It completely threw me off when the tables were then changed."

Over time, the changes were corrected, and the round tables were returned to the center of the room. The booths and new, high "date-tables" remained.

Downstairs from the Caf, the food court received a fresh coat of paint, along with new floors, tables and booths. Chef Vizzina even created a new station within the food court, selling paninis, personal pizzas and gelato. "The grill chicken sandwich is the best," said junior Spanish major, Abby Sander. "It has definitely helped me spend my food court money."

Past the newly renovated Pittman residence hall, the University Health Services office was moved to Seibert Hall, in transition with its new partnership with St. Vincent's. The new office included three examination rooms, a treatment room, triage area and on-site CLIA-certified lab.

Other changes included new tables in Ben Brown, and thanks to the extension of electrical outlets to the trees, no longer does one have to go inside because a low battery.

As the construction of the University's latest dorms took place in west campus, back by student apartments and out of the way of student traffic, students experienced a year of important changes with few disruptions and inconveniences.

The addition of booths to the Caf provided a new option for students to eat and spend time with friends.





VIZZINA'S

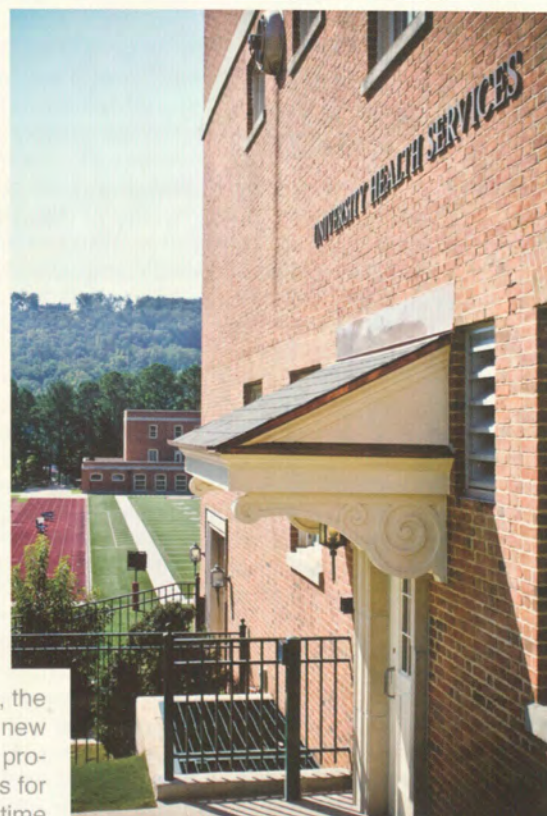
italian eatery

pizza ★ gelato ★ panini ★ insalata

The food court received new floors, a fresh coat of paint and the addition of booths and new tables.



Along with booths, the Caf was given a new seating area, simply providing more options for students to spend time





A Decade after

9/11

by Sarah Waller

In New York City and Washington D.C., it was a day of chaos and panic, a day of heartbreak and sorrow. Within a matter of minutes, the eyes of the world turned to their TVs and computers to witness the events that would forever change the world.

Where were you?

As a fifth grader, Karlie Calhoun, a junior biology major from Peachtree City, Ga., said she woke up thinking it was an average day. "It was our break time, a free time in our class, and we were about to watch a movie when our teacher turned on the TV," she said. "The news channel was on, and it was just about the time that the second plane crashed into the building. My teacher stood there in shock."

As college students, we were a part of a unique generation. Being in third, fourth, fifth or sixth grade, we were old enough to vividly remember September 11, 2001, but too young to understand what really happened. We didn't understand what the Middle East was or who terrorist were. And when told about the Twin Towers, we might have looked back at our parents with blank stares.

"I had no concept of what the World Trade Center was," said Rebecca Price, a junior economics major from Georgetown, Ky. "Being from Kentucky, I thought the plane had flown into some random building. I had no real idea. I remember when my Dad picked me up from school, he told me two planes had hit the Trade Center and one had hit the Pentagon, and I didn't really get it. No point of reference. All I remember was turning on the TV when we got home and really being able to see what had happened."

The media became the source for information. Many remember the TV being on throughout the day, providing minute-by-minutes updates. Others were kept out of the loop, seeing clips but not understanding fully. "I thought it was a movie clip," said Kayla Frank, a sophomore accounting major from Hoover, Ala. "My mom had to explain to me that what I was watching on TV was real. I remembering being really upset when I finally understood it was not made up."

"It hit me as soon as my parents turned on the news and let me watch it," said Price. "I remember that day, they literally just replayed the television images over and over and over of the plane coming into the buildings."



Found among the debris, the crossbeam cross was placed in the center of Ground Zero and became an icon for all who later came to visit the memorial site.



The images were heartbreaking, and what followed was a series of intense, emotional responses filled with fear, anger and confusion. Yet every response was unique. Though experienced collectively, we all responded to September 11, 2001 in our way. No two stories are exactly the same.

Meredith Toering, a junior management major, experienced 9/11 as a fifth grader in Oklahoma with a different perspective. Because her dad was a pilot, Toering said her family was strongly impacted and couldn't help but have a focus on the pilots and the passengers on the plane. "My dad had been flying that morning, and my mom was freaking out," she said. "She had us pray for all the pilots on the plane because that was what directly affected us."

For many people, it was difficult to not enter into heightened state of fear and shock. Cameron Collins, a junior economics and public administration major from Huntersville, N.C. explained how growing up, he went to a school that was a couple miles down the street from a nuclear power plant. The community feared that the town would be the target for another terrorist attack. Calhoun and Price experienced similar fears. Living near Atlanta, Calhoun remembered the conversations and the panic, especially with threats against places like the Center for Disease Control. For Price, her small town in Kentucky was no different. "There was this wide-spread thought. People were afraid they would hit a smaller community as a surprise attack," she said.

A decade later and on the news, in the streets or in an airport security line, we heard talks of this post-9/11 world. We gained terms like terrorist threat levels and homeland security, but as the generation that experienced the day as youth, September 11, 2001 impacted us in a different way. Our worldviews were not established yet; they were just beginning to develop. And because of this, we'll always see the world in a different way. "It made you grow up a little faster," said Calhoun.

For many, it exposed them to the grandness of the world at a young age. "It has made me a lot more aware of global issues," Collins said. "Growing up and having this happen, you see the larger impact. I couldn't take an isolationist stance now because you see the impact that global issues have on us as a country."

Toering, who planned to live and work abroad after graduation, said the worldview she gained after 9/11 won't stop her from traveling.

"It has opened my eyes to the fact that these things happen, but it hasn't affected my choices of what I want to do," she said. "As I am older now, I take it at the value that if it happened here, it could happen there too. But it's not going to keep me from going."

September 11, 2011 came without ceremony but not without remembrance. It is a day that will forever be a part of us, ingrained in who we are. As we look back and move forward, know that as a generation, you did not experience it alone.



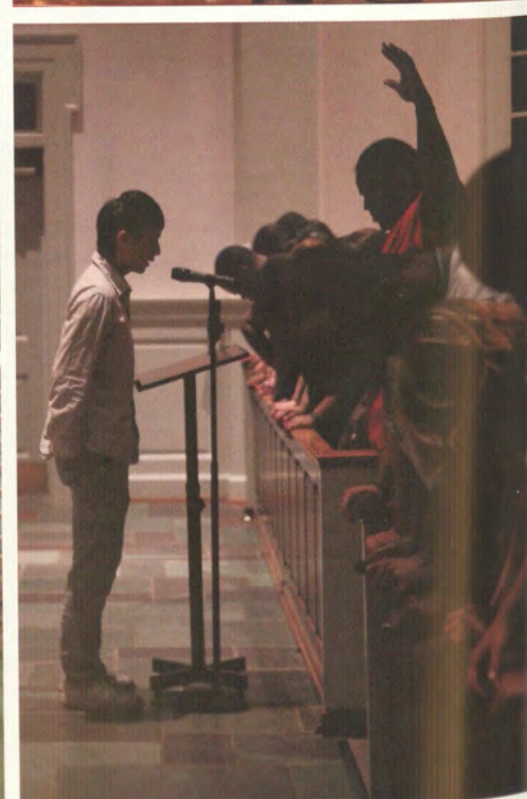
Rosie Long and Lauren Hancock came from England to study law at Cumberland Law School.



Steven Short and Jason Nieh got to know each other during meals in the Caf.



Devyani Tewari and Anna McLendon enjoyed a night at Krispie Kreme, eating donuts with the International Club.



international

students

by Sarah Waller

With an increased number of international students on campus, it became a normal occurrence to see a group of students standing in Ben Brown talking to each other in Chinese or to overhear a story about someone's culture at a table in the Caf. With their own languages and cultures, students came to the University to learn and to be immersed in the American culture. But the Americans, the ones who were there to teach and to guide, found their international friends taught them more than they could have ever imagined.

Justine McCarty, a junior global studies major, moved into the international dorm at the beginning of her sophomore year, and lived there for two years. "Living with international student opened my eyes to the world," she said. "You can get so focused on the 'American' view of college. They helped me gain a different perspective."

Living with international student opened my eyes to the world. You can get so focused on the 'American' view of college. They helped me gain a different perspective.

Justine McCarthy

For Katy Flinn, an afternoon teaching an international student how to drive reminded her to not take things for granted. Flinn met Lancy in Costa Rica during a study abroad trip during Jan Term. While abroad, Flinn learned of Lancy's desire to learn how to drive and announced she would be the person to teach her. In parking lots and empty streets, Lancy proved she was a quick learner. "The most difficult thing about driving is reverse," Lancy said. "And turning right while going down a hill. They screamed a couple of times when I first did that."

Flinn said teaching someone how to drive was not as easy as she thought. "I had forgotten how hard it is to drive because I have been driving for so long," Flinn said. "You forget things like the placement of the car in the street – so you don't bump into curbs or veer into the wrong lane. You take the knowledge for granted."

Students found other ways to invest into the lives of their international friends by joining clubs like the International Club. IC provided the opportunity for the international students and American students to bond over board games, dinners in the city and trips to Sonic. The club was open to everyone, and it met every other Friday. With so many countries represented, the students were able to share their stories while learning from others.

The chat club was another way students interacted. Established to help with conversational English, the club worked mainly with the Chinese students who came to the University knowing little English. It provided them the chance to learn the language outside the classroom and in a more casual atmosphere.

Interacting with international students, students were bound to encounter cultural differences. McCarty said she was most surprised by their sleeping habits. "They slept a lot during the day, but then they could stay up all night," she said. "They also have a high value on being a student and respecting their parents through that."

But the biggest thing McCarty learned was though they came from different cultures and spoke different languages, they were more similar than they were different.

President westmorelands

Leadership runs in the family

by Amy Vu

As president for the Student Government Association, Riley Westmoreland, a senior journalism and political science major, had the responsibility to "serve as the primary liaison between the student body and Samford administration," according to the SGA Constitution she helped rewrite. This put her in a unique position. For most of us called the University's president Dr. Westmoreland, but for Riley, she called him Dad.

Riley took office as SGA's president in the spring of 2011. Riley and her dad, Dr. Andrew Westmoreland both spoke candidly about what it was like for them to serve as respectable presidents within the University and Riley's decision to come to the University in the first place.

Being the University's president and serving as SGA president meant Riley and Westmoreland would have to cross paths on University issues. "We interacted a lot on university issues, but never did we fight over anything, which is great. Most of the issues that I brought to him, he had been in agreement on. We haven't always seen eye-to-eye on how to make things better, but I think that is a good thing. It has helped us both to think about the other's argument and look for other possible ways to work toward a better Samford beyond our own ideas," said Riley.

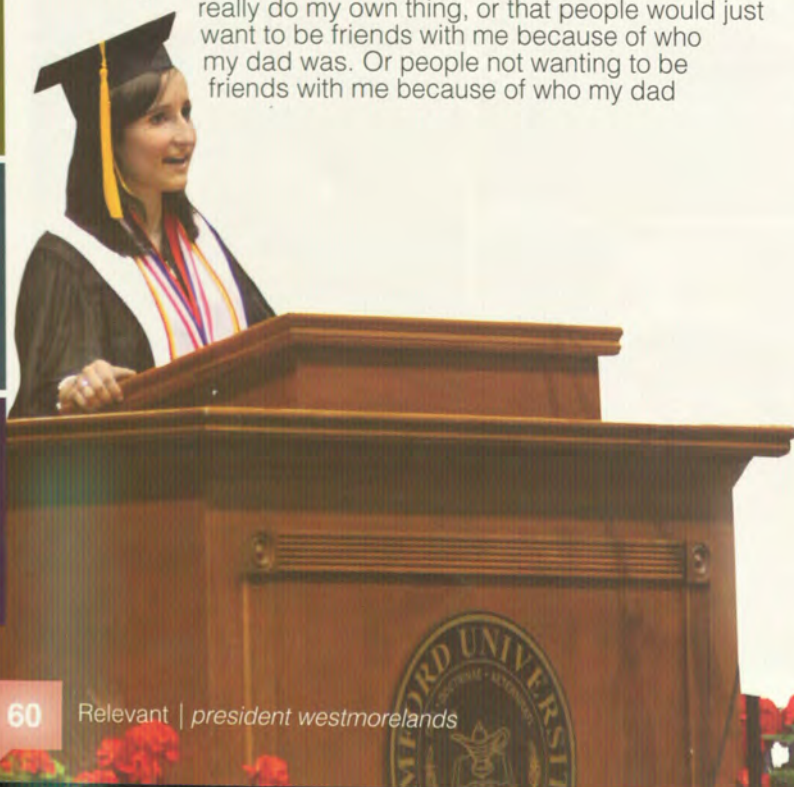
Both Riley and Westmoreland also talked about Riley's decision to come to the University and how it had shaped the whole family's experience. "I was worried about not having my own college experience if I chose to go to Samford. I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to really do my own thing, or that people would just want to be friends with me because of who my dad was. Or people not wanting to be friends with me because of who my dad

was. At the end of the day though, I knew that Samford was where the Lord wanted me to be, so I made my decision and I have never regretted it," said Riley.

Dr. Westmoreland saw her decision to come to the University from a parent's point-of-view. "I did not think she would come here, and the decision actually took me by surprise. There were actually mixed emotions; I wanted her to have a quality education such that Samford would provide, but my wife and I also wanted Riley to have her own college experience. Everything turned out well in the end."

Riley said there were ups and downs to having her family at the University. "It is a little strange that my whole family is so invested in Samford. I guess when most people go home, they talk with their families about all kinds of things. They can tell their parents about what is happening at school, and their parents can talk about what is happening at work. Those are two totally different conversations. For us, that's not the case. Work and school, it's all the same for us, so we do end up talking about Samford a lot. But it has been good for me, because I have been able to understand what happens at school from a different perspective. It has made me appreciate everything so much more."

Before coming to Samford, Dr. Westmoreland was president of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark. He explained that the family has "made our lives around Samford, which has not been a challenge since Riley was seven years old at the time I became president at Ouachita. She's grown up surrounded by college, which made the adjustment to Samford easier for which I am thankful." He summed it up by a simple statement: "I am very blessed to have a daughter like Riley and to be where I am today. Very blessed indeed."





Sharing the stage at graduation, Dr. Westmoreland introduced his daughter for her address to the graduating class.



Dr. Westmoreland and Riley worked closely together on University issues facing the student body.





Maybe you discovered that chemistry wasn't your thing but elementary education was, that you actually hated English and you wanted to be a business major. That is the beauty of a college major; it can always be changed. With a simple form and a signature from an advisor, you had the power to declare what your college education would be. To declare what path would lead you to your future. Maybe you changed it once, twice, okay, maybe five times until finally you found the perfect fit – that is what declaring a major is all about.

academics



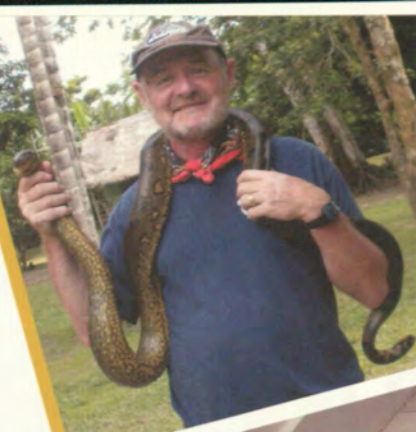
Photos by: Kathleen Artman, Caroline Burkhardt, Drew Hall, Katy Flinn, Rachel Stokes, Eleanor Stenner



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cademics

declare
your major



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study abroad

From the Daniel House to around the world

by Rachel Freeny

academics

The Daniel House in London just might be the University's best kept secret. During the fall semester, thirteen students spent three months discovering the all that studying in London has to offer.

Students lived at the Daniel House, located in the heart of London in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. The house was donated to the University in 1983 by Mr. and Mrs. R. Hugh Daniel "in the hope that it would promote world awareness and international understanding among future generations."

"I have always been really interested in different cultures and experiencing reality outside of my immediate surroundings, so the idea of getting to spend three months in a different culture was appealing to me," said senior English major Deborah Rodriguez.

Though the British speak English, studying in London was a completely new cultural experience. Students were immersed in London culture through theatre and art classes, culture classes, internships and day-to-day life in the historic city.

"It's been such a mind opening experience being in a different culture," said junior communication studies major Jane Marie Hutcheson. "Working with British people in my internship has taught me a lot about communicating cross culturally."

The idea of being placed in a completely new environment was intimidating to some, but Rodriguez said that's exactly why it is so important to take the opportunity to experience a different culture.

"I think that, generally speaking, the Samford student has become very comfortable with conventionality, and being able to study abroad eliminates the conventional because you are propelled into a completely new environment," she said.

"It's really important to foster an open mind and a sense of understanding not only in approaching other cultures but in approaching other people."

Though studying abroad for a semester meant missing out on University life in Alabama, the experiences and lessons learned in London were worth it.

"You don't really understand the impact it's going to have on you until you experience that change yourself," said Hutcheson. "I've realized I have the whole world ahead of me, and I can go anywhere and do anything. Before, I limited myself."

Junior history major Kathleen Artman said her experience in London gave her a greater appreciation for the world and also for the United States.

"I've learned to make the most of where you are," she said. "I feel like I'll appreciate the states more and want to see more of what the states have to offer."

For Rodriguez, studying abroad was a refreshing experience.

"Honestly, it's made my eyes more sensitive to life," she said. "I'm more willing to take the time to look at things, and to experience things, and to realize that even the smallest things like sitting in a café for two hours is an adventure in itself."

Rodriguez, Artman and Hutcheson agreed that not enough Samford students take advantage of the Daniel House.

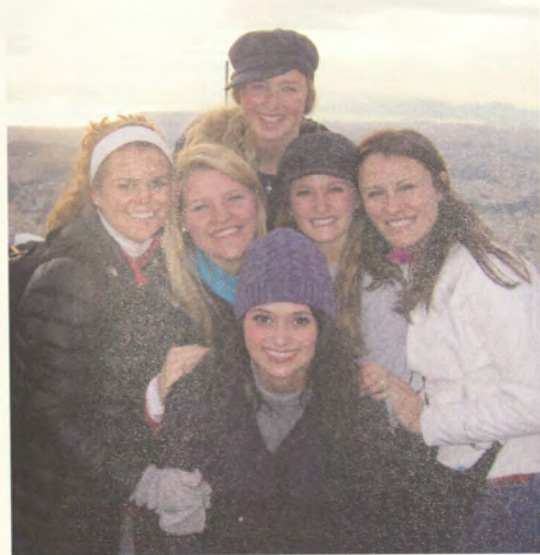
"The Daniel house is such an awesome a resource, and I just don't think Samford students know how great of a resource it is," said Artman.

Hutcheson encouraged students not to miss out on the once in a lifetime opportunity to live in and travel throughout Europe as a student.

"Go the whole semester. Don't hesitate," she said.

"Whatever is holding you back, just know that your experience abroad is going to be an incredibly growing experience, and it's unlike any other opportunity you'll have the rest of your life."

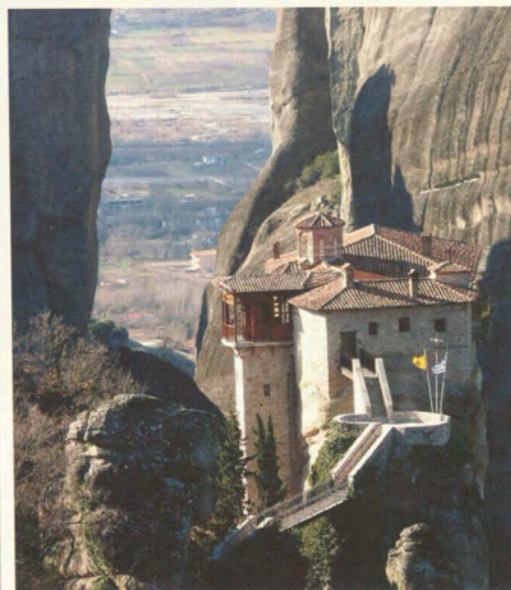




A trip to Greece brought history to life for the students who took part in the study abroad trip over Jan Term.



Sophomores Adrienne Kicker and Drew Smith studied in their underwater classroom off the coast of Saba during a Jan Term trip to the island.



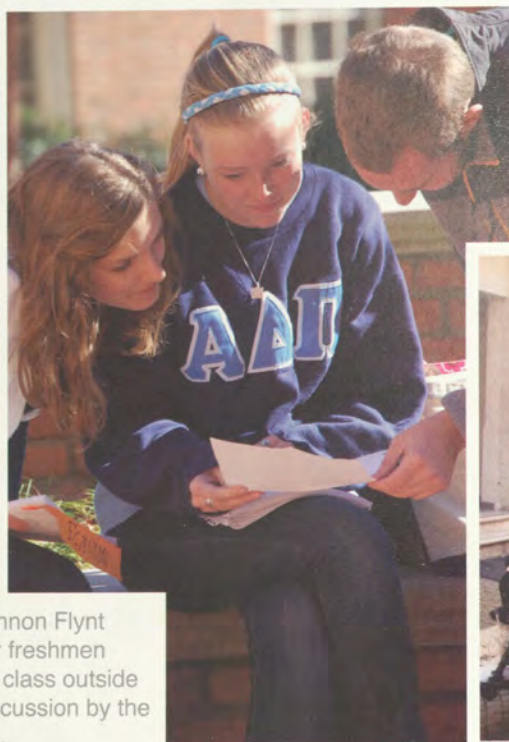
fellows

Enriching minds, building friendships

academics



Dr. Shannon Flynt took her freshmen Fellows class outside for a discussion by the fountain.



In their second year of the program, the sophomore class of Fellows traveled to Rome, Italy for Jan Term.



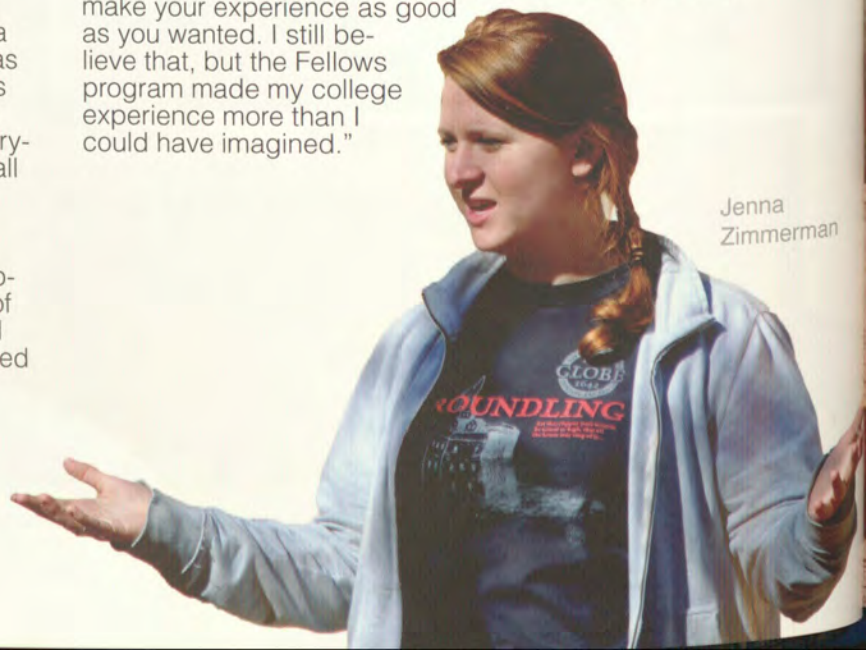
by Elizabeth Gardner

Students in the University Fellows Program took the Fellows version of the University core curriculum. Instead of taking Cultural Perspectives, Fellows took Western Intellectual Tradition, a four-semester course that takes an in-depth look at the greatest thinkers of the Western world, from Plato to Nietzsche. These classes were one of the major factors that drew students to the Fellows Program. "The Fellows make use of the best professors, and with less than fifteen Fellows in each class, the discussion-based classes give everyone a chance to speak their mind without allowing an awkward silence," said freshman English major Hayden Davis. "There is a steady, respectful flow of ideas in every class. That's got to be my favorite part of the Fellows Program."

The Fellows Program provided much more than academic enrichment for its students. The program was a community. Sophomore nursing major Bonnie Pike was grateful for that community. "The Fellows program has been great transitioning to college, where I went from being in a small high school where I knew almost everyone to a campus of 5,000," she said. "Having the small community of Fellows helped me make connections more easily and readily."

Another great perk of the Fellows Program was the opportunity for studying abroad. The sophomore class of Fellows traveled to Italy during Jan Term. They visited Rome and Florence, where they studied and connected with the landscapes that shaped many of the great books they read throughout the Western Intellectual Tradition courses.

The Fellows Program had four classes of students for the first time. Throughout its first four years, the program grew and evolved, taking student feedback into serious consideration. The freshman class looked forward to the next years in the program. "No other honors programs I visited while 'shopping around', and I did my share of looking, offered the same individual attention to how I was progressing, both intellectually and as a responsible human being," said Hayden. In May, for the first time in University history, students from all backgrounds and disciplines, had the honor of graduating as University Fellows. "Someone recently asked me what it was worth to be recognized as a Fellow at graduation and I realized it was my whole college experience," said senior psychology and history major Callie Gibson. "When I first came to Samford, I believed that you could make your experience as good as you wanted. I still believe that, but the Fellows program made my college experience more than I could have imagined."



Jenna Zimmerman



latin american scholars

travel to Ecuador

by Reed Richardson

The first group of Latin American Studies scholars completed their two-year program in May.

During their time in the program, the students not only volunteered service hours in the Hispanic community of Birmingham, but they also worked their way through a curriculum of Latin American political science, language, geography and history classes among others. Their efforts eventually led to a capstone study abroad experience of Latin American culture in Ecuador during the summer of 2011.

Touring Ecuador, the scholars embraced all things Latin American—from the language to the people.

We learned about the environment and the people that live there, visiting several communities that had been affected by the oil companies of Ecuador...

Kevin Holley

"A big part of the trip for me was seeing the prominence of the indigenous population still present in Latin America," said junior LAS scholar and Spanish major, Kevin Holley. "It was everywhere, even in the cities. You could see indigenous people who still wore traditional clothing walking through a metropolis even in Quito, the capital city of Ecuador."

Quito was just one of the places visited on the journey. Over a span of three weeks, the group traveled to four different regions of Ecuador—the Amazon, the Highlands, the capital city and the indigenous countryside. In each area, the students enjoyed regional pastimes like hiking, horseback riding, traditional dancing and more. However, they also strengthened their studies through group discussions and educational field trips.

"The trip was basically a comprehensive exploration of the culture, language, history and current events of Ecuador," said Holley. "We learned about the environment and the people that live there, visiting several communities that had been affected by the oil companies of Ecuador. We also learned about the more modern history of Ecuador, such as its economic, political and social development, and we visited sites that featured ruins from Incan and pre-Incan societies."

Junior LAS scholar and Spanish major, Carmen Patulea said it was one of the best trips of her life. "We also got to spend time in the beautiful rolling hills of Ecuador, seeing firsthand how people farm and make a living off the land in a very mountainous area," said Patulea. "I'm glad I got to share the learning experience with such wonderful and close friends and professors. It combined everything that we have been learning for two years in a real life, meaningful experience."

These same experiences were what the next generation of LAS students looked forward to when they venture to Ecuador in summer 2012.

"I am definitely looking forward to the trip," said sophomore LAS scholar and undeclared major, Jake Hamilton. "It's mostly exciting because I have been preparing for this trip to Ecuador alongside a handful of wonderful classmates and professors. We have all become really close through our studies and I cannot wait to see our studies come to life in Ecuador."

While Hamilton prepared for his capstone experience abroad, he was also a peer mentor to the newest edition of LAS scholars.

"I mentor to an exceptional group of new scholars," said Hamilton. "It's great to see the success of this program grow with new faces and to imagine how it will continue to grow in the future."

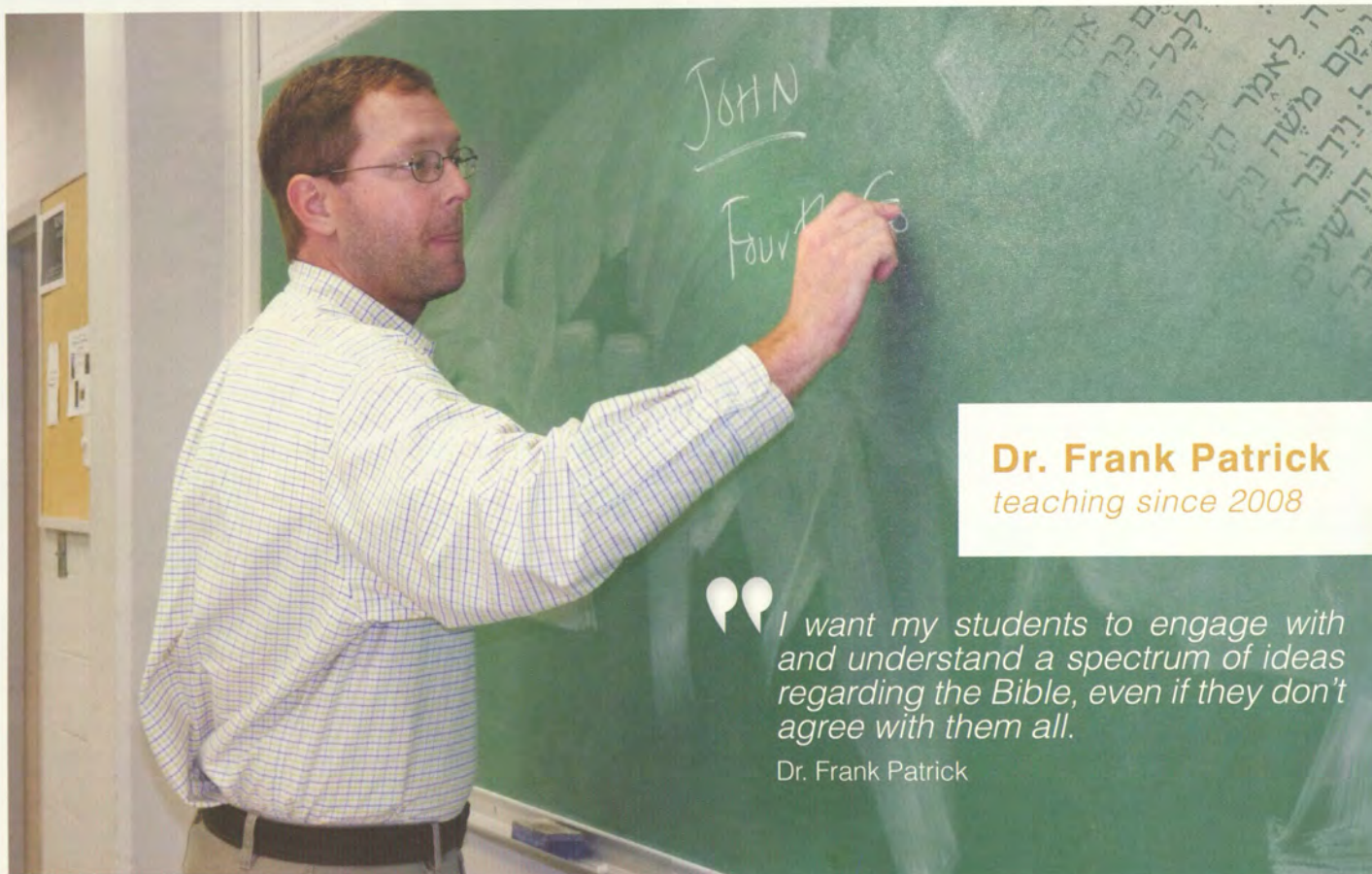


general core

No matter what major a student chose, each will have in common the University's core curriculum. Made up of Communication Arts, Cultural Perspectives, Biblical Perspectives and Concepts of Fitness and Health, the core curriculum was a set requirement of hours each student had to fulfill. Communication Arts 101 and 102 focused on one's style of writing, acting as the introduction to more intense papers one would later ex-

perience. CA also worked to improve students' public speaking skills. Cultural Perspectives 101 and 102 delved into the topics of literature, ranging from Plato to Jane Austin. Biblical Perspectives worked through the history of the Bible and challenged students to see the text through the eyes of the early Christians. And finally, Concepts for Health and Fitness got students in the gym, either running, swimming or lifting weights.

academics



Dr. Frank Patrick
teaching since 2008

“I want my students to engage with and understand a spectrum of ideas regarding the Bible, even if they don't agree with them all.”

Dr. Frank Patrick

Three unique toes; one big heart

by Anne Marie Pope

Dr. Patrick was passionate about seeing his students engage with the Bible in new ways.

“As a teacher, I strive to enrich your reading of the Biblical text with literary, historical and sociological contexts,” he said. “I want my students to engage with and understand a spectrum of ideas regarding the Bible, even if they don't agree with them all. In fact, I stress to them that I want them to disagree. I want them to talk through the ideas so they can reason out the logic behind their own beliefs.”

Because Patrick taught a required course that may or may not peak the enthusiastic interest of every student, he strived to make his class as engaging as possible.

“I have learned to recognize that everything that is important to me is not necessarily important to my students,” he said. “So I have to do two things. I have to impassion them to learn what really is important,

sometimes leaving out the details I might enjoy, and I also have to realize that what they think is important is often more important than I previously realized. My biggest fear is becoming the distant, removed scholar who cares little for what his students think. I want to engage with them where they are, because I'm on this faith journey with them.”

Junior nursing major Clare Rogers had Patrick for Biblical Perspectives and loved having him as a professor. “I actually enjoyed his class, even though it was at eight in the morning,” she said. Dr. Patrick was well known for his stories and funny antics, like revealing his right foot, which only had three toes, during the first few weeks of class. “He's entertaining, and he makes you think about your faith,” said Rogers.

Above all, Patrick said that his purpose was to equip his students. “No matter where you're at, I want you to be able to read the Bible in a way that enriches your life experience,” he said.



Dr. Patrick was known for removing his shoe and sock in class, usually in the midst of telling a good story, to reveal his foot with three toes.

arts & sciences

Howard College of Arts and Sciences provided students a foundation for more advanced study. The college remained the largest of the University's eight schools, with 16 departments and more than 30 different majors.

2011-2012 was a big year of achievements for the Howard College of Arts and Sciences. Debaters Dan Bagwell and Jacob Lewis claimed a first for the University's debate program with their #10 ranking in the National Coaches Poll. Later, they went on to compete in Pittsburg, Penn., where the team finished second among the nation's top 25 teams. The Model United Nations team of six University students earned the Honorable Mention award in competition with 80 universities from around the world at the 2011 National Model United Nations held in Washington, D.C. from October 21-23.

Also, Geography Department professor and chair Eric Fournier received the 2011 Excellence in Teaching Award of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers. Psychology professor and department chair Stephen Chew received the honor of being named the 2011 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Outstanding Master's and Colleges Professor of the Year. The foundation announced the award at the U.S. Professors of the Year Awards Program in Washington, D.C. on November 17. In the spring, Howard College of Arts and Sciences honored Political Science professor and founding chair Fred Shepherd with its 2011/2012 Arts and Sciences Teaching Award.

academics



Dr. James Brown
teaching since 1971



In his Folklore class, Dr. Brown taught his students how to weave baskets from scratch.

Forty-One Years and Counting

by Amy Vu

With more than 41 years of experience, Dr. James Brown was an icon in the Howard School of Arts and Science. A professor in the history department, Brown taught classes from "Russia and Uzbekistan" to one called, "China's Land of Fish and Rice (lower Yantz Valley)."

This year, new history majors were able to experience his teaching style with "The West in Global Perspective," while upperclassman woke up early on registration day to get into his "Folklore: Europe to America" class.

Dr. Brown earned his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University and traveled all over the world with University students. "Full-time teaching in the history department at Samford is my first and only full-time job. You're supposed to tell students to prepare themselves to change jobs five to seven times in their careers; my advice is, be careful where you take that first one," said Dr. Brown.



Students describe Dr. Brown fondly. "Dr. Brown is an excellent professor because of his hands-on approach to teaching. He makes the places of history really come to life," said sophomore history major Darren Gray.

Of course, teaching for 41 years does come with its challenges, but Dr. Brown said he has learned a lot about getting students to focus over the years. "I used to think lively lectures automatically translated to learning. There's still a place for a good story (if told well), but it's not enough. I've developed games/simulations of historical processes such as nation creation on a spreadsheet platform. I've got computer generated, laser cut 3-D terrain models that the class can use to guess where the major roads run through a given topography, giving me a stage setting on which to play out the history. And lately, I've integrated Google Earth into my courses in a way I don't think anyone else nationwide is doing."

In Dr. Brown's folklore class, he taught his students how to weave baskets out of bamboo. "[Dr. Brown's] amount of knowledge about seemingly every subject is unprecedented, and basket weaving is the coolest thing I've done in a class even though it's tedious," said junior history major Kathleen Artman. "He's a great basket weaving teacher."

Besides his basket weaving abilities, Dr. Brown was a wealth of all knowledge to his students. "Dr. Brown makes learning fun because you can tell he is very passionate about what he is talking about," said sophomore history major Jordan Yeo. "His knowledge is so deep that you often hear students wonder if there is anything he doesn't know."

Dr. Brown thought highly of his students. "All in all, I've enjoyed teaching here at Samford more than I can say. Almost always, there are at least a handful of students in a class who are really interested in the material I have mastered (or at least studied intensively) and for which I have crafted a presentation. It has always made for a satisfaction hard to describe."

Dr. Larry Davenport

teaching since 1985



Dr. Davenport liked to teach through experiences, teaching many of his classes outside.



Encouraging students to be hands-on

by Amy Vu

Dr. Lawrence Davenport has taught general biology and microbiology classes at the University since 1985. He taught plant taxonomy and an introductory course in botany and also traveled with students to Peru during Jan Term to teach them about the rainforest.

Students knew Dr. Davenport as an engaging professor with a sense of humor and enough stories to fill a bookshelf. "Dr. Davenport is the best. He makes Monday mornings enjoyable," said freshman nursing major Cat Montgomery.

Dr. Davenport has learned to keep students engaged through his teaching style. "One thing I've learned about teaching is that students learn better if I tell stories about my experiences with plants," said Davenport. "I like to teach from the familiar. For example, I will relate something about plants to what students eat for lunch in the Caf. They remember things that way."

Junior biology major Jessica Fleming took Dr. Davenport for her introductory botany course and also traveled with him to Peru during Jan Term. "Dr. Davenport is awesome. I just love his teaching style, and he is so funny," said Fleming. "I wouldn't have traded him for any other professor in Peru."

In fact, Dr. Davenport said that his best memories have come from Peru. "I want students to experience the culture of the Peruvians and to open their eyes to the world. In my classes, I want students to walk out of there and on the way to the Caf, to stop and admire the grass growing under their feet."

Since being at the University, Dr. Davenport has noticed the changes that come with technology and how students use technology in class. "I'm old school, so I still use chalk. I don't believe in this whole 'death by PowerPoint' thing. Also, a cell phone went off in class once and I threw a piece of chalk at the offender. But other than that, students are still respectful."

Students respected Dr. Davenport and also thought highly of him. "He speaks with authority but has the experience and knowledge to back it up," said senior environmental science major J.T. Pynne.

In his spare time, Dr. Davenport spoke publicly about his research of the Cahaba lily, as well as topics like climate change and the Amazon rainforest. He has also published a book, which is a collection of his columns in

business

Brock School of Business saw another exciting year as Dean Howard Finch served his first two semesters and the school was chosen as a finalist for the Entrepreneurship Award at South Dakota Launch Conference. New members were added to the Dean's advisory board, and the student's championship business report won their Cambridge trip.

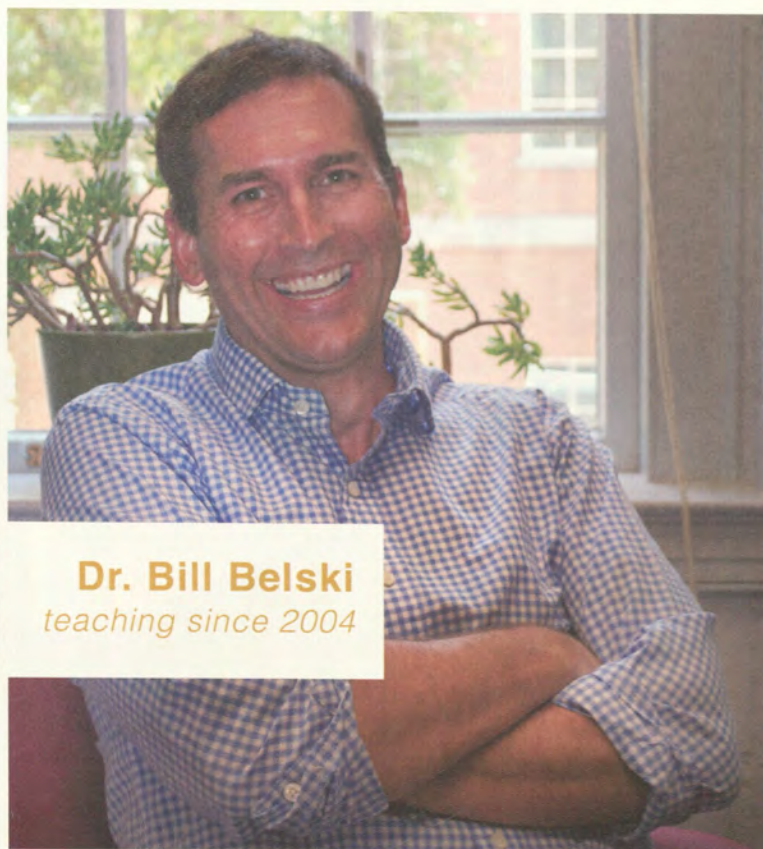
In fall 2011, 188 students were inducted into the school. Furthermore, the freshman entrepreneurship course, BUSA 100: World of Business, was selected as a finalist for the U.S. Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship's "Entrepreneurship Education Innovation Award," a national recognition.

academics

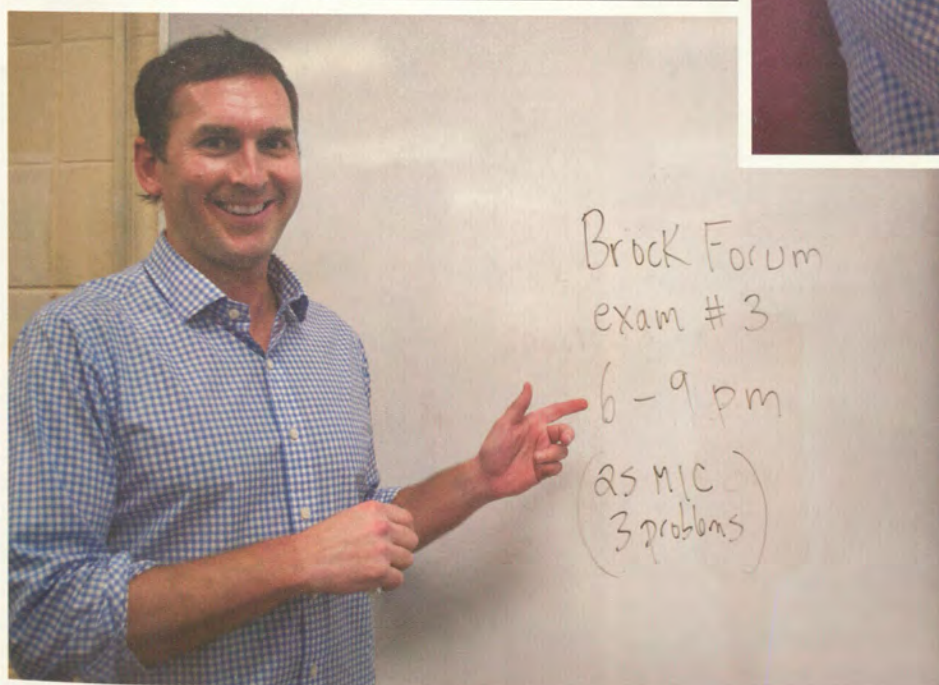


Patricia Barnes, founder of Sister Schubert's Homemade Rolls came and spoke in front of business school students.





Dr. Bill Belski
teaching since 2004



The "Benovolent Dictator" won favor with students

by Laura Hash

Dr. Belski was one of the inarguable highlights of the business curriculum at the Univeristy. A self-described "benevolent dictator" and "eternal optimist," Dr. Belski was known for pushing his students to perform at their peak. "I expect a great deal from my students. Cold calling is almost always used and most students say that my ESP abilities are keen, especially when they're ill-prepared," he said. "I accept nothing less than my students' very best effort."

His favorite student comment from past teaching evaluations was, "Belski makes it impossible to come to class, but he also makes it impossible not to come to class." And, although Dr. Belski was secretly an introvert, he made sure that "class sessions always include the perfect mix of humor and sarcasm."

Dr. Belski hoped that students took away from his class "the importance of being passionate about what they do and that they matter and their actions matter," he said. "I hope they take away the importance of service to their friends, family, community and especially to those less fortunate."

David Reece, a junior finance and economics double major, enjoyed Dr. Belski's teaching style. "He is the type of teacher that makes you prepare before class and challenges you on what you have learned," said Reece. "I definitely got called out a few times in his class being unprepared. You learn to not let that happen."

education

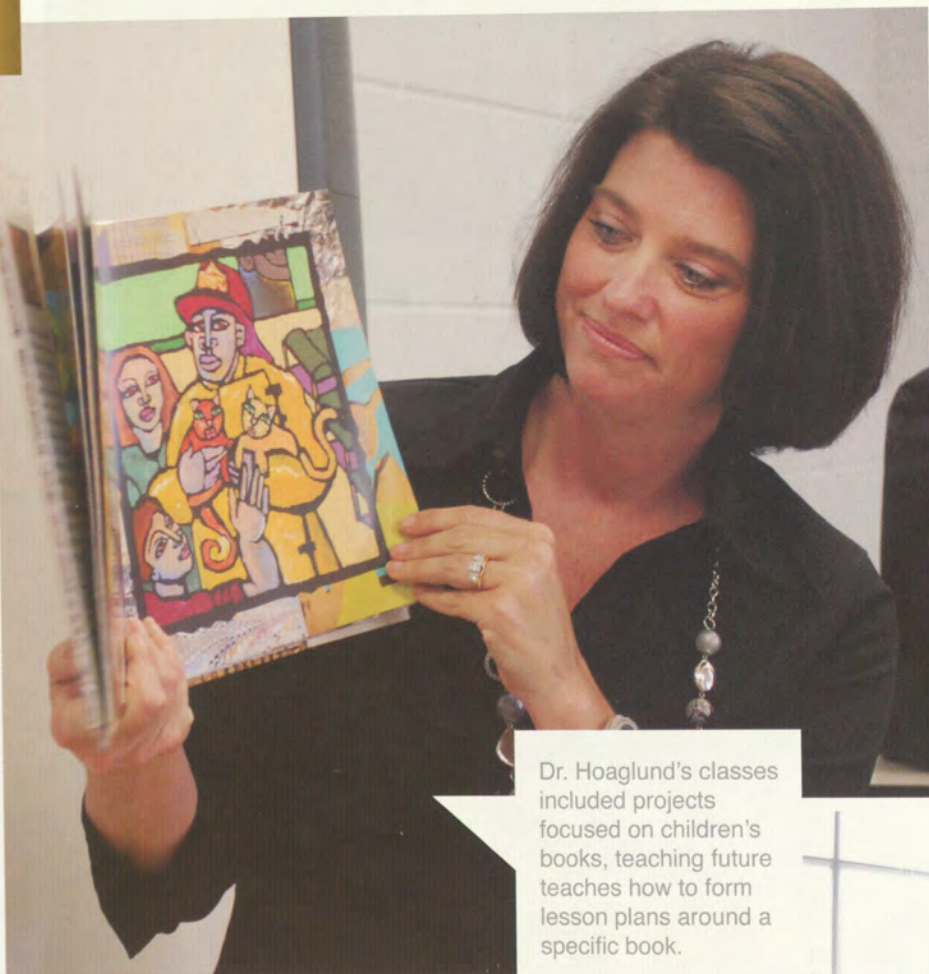
The Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies guided, developed and challenged students to become leaders who will influence society and the world of education. The school partnered with Trace Crossings Elementary School, a new aspect to the program. The school wanted to provide a high quality Christian education for students that offered a curriculum that would teach students to be confident as leaders.

Student teaching at Trace Crossings gave students an opportunity to observe and interact with elementary classes, and stu-

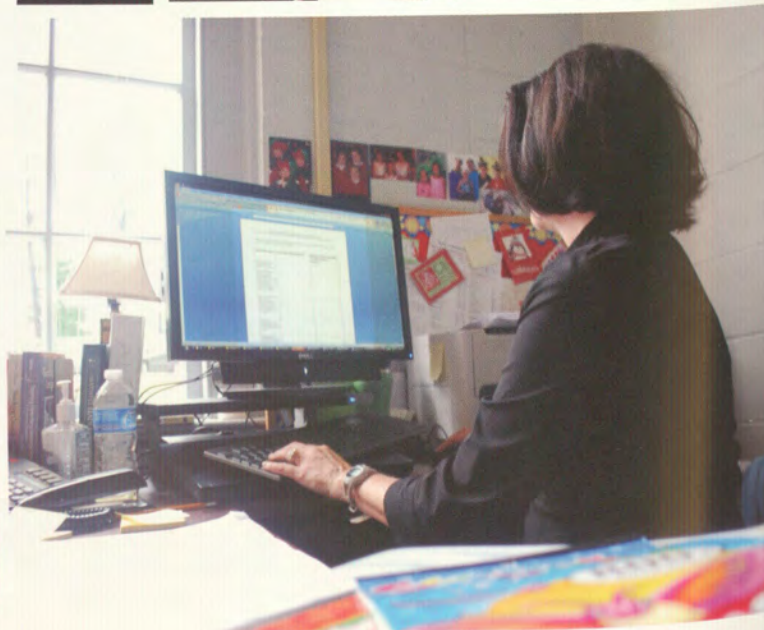
dents gained experience they could later apply to their own classrooms. On April 2, Trace Crossings Elementary brought several classes of fourth graders to the campus for Space Day. Students went to the planetarium and also learned more about space in the School of Education.

The Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education continued to grow and implement new teaching methods, and professors like Dr. Amy Hoaglund continued to prepare students to influence the next generation in education.

academics



Dr. Hoaglund's classes included projects focused on children's books, teaching future teachers how to form lesson plans around a specific book.



I hope to pass along to students a passion for teaching and to understand their role. What they do can have an everlasting impact on their students.
Dr. Amy Hoaglund



Dr. Amy Hoaglund
teaching since 2007

Developing young educators for today's world

by Craig Kleimeyer

Previously an elementary school teacher at Leeds Elementary and then a stay at home mom, Dr. Hoaglund came to the University in 2007 after being asked to teach temporarily for a year. She had taught adjunct courses before and received several degrees from the University. She has loved getting to know her students and seeing them develop over the years.

"I love to work with this age and see them grow and change over the course of the program," she said.

Hoaglund was known for giving out stickers in her classes, and one day, she passed out bunny gummy teeth for students to wear during their test. "You're never too old for a sticker. And students don't have to have test anxiety. We don't have to make it completely intimidating."

Hoaglund said that teaching her Language Arts class was her favorite because students will integrate what they learn in that class into everything they teach in a classroom. "Language Arts is the anchor for everything else, for every other methods class students will take."

Hoaglund liked to let her students discover things on their own, but she enjoyed helping to prepare them for society.

"I don't like to correct them too much," she said. "I want them to be college students, but I also like to shepherd them back to the professional world."

She doesn't like to share her own personal philosophy of learning with her students, but her philosophy focuses on experience and its importance. "Children and teachers learn best from experiences. I like students to work together and share ideas. I like to give them chances to interact with what they are learning."

She likes to model lots of different teaching methods because at some point, students will be challenged and stretched and will go out of their comfort zones, and they will also be in their zone at times. "We have lots of learning preferences."

Hoaglund was impressed by seniors and by the education students in general. "Once students get to be seniors, they are so confident and look like professionals. We have pretty awesome students who are ready to go out there and make a difference."

She felt an enormous responsibility to prepare her students because each year, she teaches about 30 in one class, and each of those 30 will teach about 20 in their own classrooms.

"I hope to pass along to students a passion for teaching and to understand their role," she said. "What they do can have an everlasting impact on their students."

She stressed the importance of a positive attitude and flexibility.

"Things change all the time. Don't get upset about it. When you're working with people, nothing goes as planned. You just have to go with it. And be a problem solver."

Students had a great grasp on their purpose in the education world, Hoaglund said.

"God has a purpose for you in those schools," she said. "Students realize that purpose and they seize it. They seize the day."

school of the arts

Officially formed in 2008, the University's School of the Arts has continuously grown. The school offered majors in aspects of art, graphic design, theatre, church music, music education, music theatre, instrumental music, theory, music history, vocal/choral music, piano, pedagogy, organ and composition. Minors include art, theatre, music, dance, film and the arts. Graduate degrees offered are church music, music education, and a new degree in piano performance and pedagogy.

Dr. Larry Thompson was chair of the University's visual arts department. In February, Thompson was part of a panel discussion at the 100th annual College Art Association conference in New York. The panel discussed how studio art would be affected by the CAA, and Thompson spoke on the importance of studio space and the need for faculty to use this space for personal research.

academics




Performed on the Wright Center stage, *White Christmas* was the theatre department's largest production, putting everyone in the Christmas spirit.



The University Opera program debuted with multiple productions this year.



Junior Kaleigh Warwick was awarded First Place in the annual Student Art Exhibit and her "Identity" painting was also selected to hang in Dean Hopkins' office.



...The ultimate goal is to get a student to tap into their creative side, and realize that there is a black and white world, but there are also a ton of grays if we just are willing to look deeper.

Larry Thompson

Larry Thompson, 38" x 78"
teaching since 1993

"Scary Larry" fosters creativity and individual thinking

by Megan Thompson (no relation)

Larry Thompson's chief goal in his teaching was to introduce his students to the world of art and to assist them in finding their own niche. "My teaching philosophy is one I relate more to that of tour guide," said Thompson. "I'm not really here to fill up anyone with my brilliance, mainly because I don't have brilliance with which to fill anyone, but rather help students find their own paths. Art is such a personal thing that simply trying to create clones of me seems rather arrogant, pointless, and stupid."

Instead, Thompson chose to help the students determine for themselves how they would express their thoughts through art. "I try to facilitate projects that will help students start down a path of experiencing things, certainly pointing things out along the way, so that each student starts to define who they are as an artist, and what direction they should go in their own work that will best say what they are trying to say," said Thompson.

Thompson said every class he teaches has a different impact on his students. He finds each class to be a venue for instilling some unique artistic value into the minds of aspiring artists, and he enjoyed teaching every class equally. "I can't really answer the favorite class question," said Thompson. "That is such a black and white question, and I walk through a world that has infinite grays. Each class is different and built upon the chemistry of the individuals within the class."

Thompson taught a painting studio class and a contemporary issues seminar.

"They are very different, but both exciting in their own way. Painting is great seeing students paint for the first time and seeing how their work grows with each project," said Thompson. "The seminar class is great because it is advanced students asking some very tough questions about where art is today."

Though Thompson viewed all his classes as equally important, he felt particularly confident in one subject's ability to provide a strong foundation for a visual artist. "If you made me choose one class only to teach forever, it would be Drawing I," said Thompson. "It is so fundamental to all that happens in art no matter the direction a student goes from that point forward, and it is great to connect with students so early in the process of their artistic evolution."

There were several concepts Thompson hopes his students absorb during his teaching. "I hope it isn't any one thing students take away from my class," Thompson said. "For instance, if a student is in a painting class, I realize not every student in there is going to become a painter, hanging work in the Louvre, but hopefully they can leave with a better sense of aesthetics, compositional skills, understand how color works. If nothing else, maybe the ultimate goal is to get a student to tap into their creative side, and realize that there is a black and white world, but there are also a ton of grays if we just are willing to look deeper."

nursing

The Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing, established in 1922, celebrated 90 years as a leader in nursing education. The late Ida V. Moffett's vision, principles and philosophy have helped form the school's traditions and history. Nursing graduates practiced not only in Alabama, but also throughout the United

States and the world. The nursing school focused on academic excellence, compassion, care and service. The outstanding faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, and comprehensive clinical sites and resources contributed to the success of the school in its 90th year.

academics

With state of the art equipment, nursing students practiced on dummies that could simulate a heart beat, breathing and even bleeding.



"Nursing students were given the opportunity to visit the helicopter pad during their hospital clinicals."

Nursing students participated in the Homecoming parade, building a float entitled "Contaminate the Catamounts."





Dr. Barbara J. Money
teaching since 1984



Ms. Money is always full of surprises

by Laura Hash

Ms. Money's was well known for her vivacious teaching style and personality. By incorporating questions and discussions into her lectures, she was able to run an "interactive classroom" during lecture time. She also taught PBL in the computer lab where she has eight to nine groups construct a concept map on certain diseases. In this setting she said she "floats between the groups for discussion of their problem statement."

Not only was Ms. Money the life of the classroom, she was also the life of the mountains. "Few students know I ride a four-wheeler in the mountains like the wind," she said, hinting at the kind of adventurous lifestyle she loves to lead.

A certain sense of adventure was reflected in her classroom goals as well. "I hope each student takes away a love of patho and a curiosity of the body and how it

functions," she remarked. She also hopes that each student walks away with the sense that he or she was treated fairly.

Clare Rogers, a junior nursing major who took Ms. Money's pathophysiology course raved about Ms. Money's teaching abilities. "I just love her. She is an epic, irreplaceable and insightful asset to the nursing school," said Rogers, who also applauded Ms. Money's "genuine devotion to each student understanding the material, impeccable fashion sense, and ability to know just what the student needs to learn."

pharmacy

McWhorter School of Pharmacy professors and students continued to accomplish commendable goals.

Pharmacy professor Michael Hogue was elected as a Distinguished Practitioner and Fellow in the National Academies of Practice in the Pharmacy Academy. He was presented a National Academies of Practice medalion and certificate at the NAP New Member Banquet on March 24 in Arlington, Va.

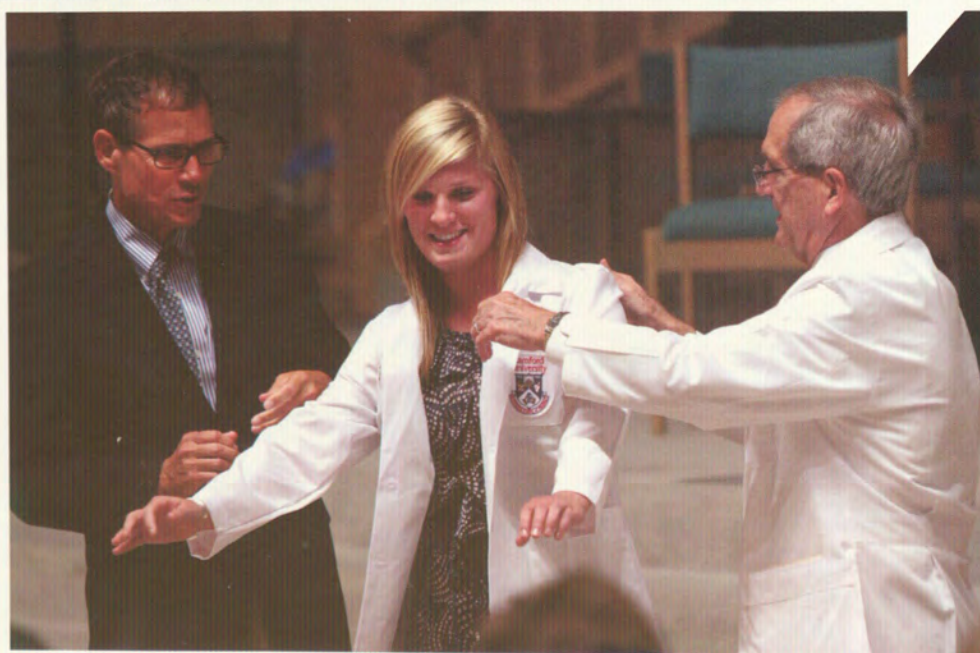
In honor of American Heart Month, students helped Bessemer patients recognize the importance of heart health by providing free health screenings for patients at FMS Pharmacy, a community pharmacy in Bessemer, Ala.

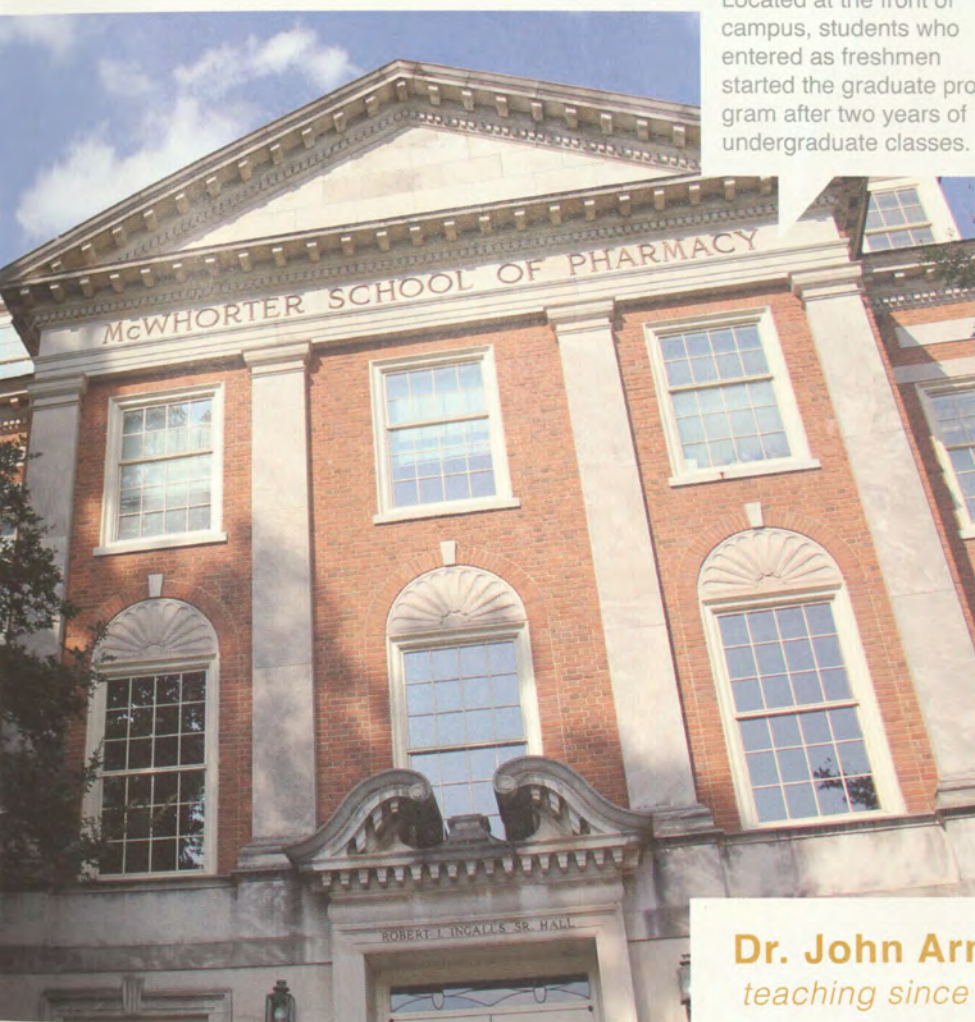
Also, fourth year pharmacy school student Jessica Collins won a National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation Pharmacy Student Scholarship. This scholarship program recognized her as a pharmacy student with a strong interest in pursuing a career in community pharmacy.

academics



Junior Liz Vincent earned her white coat, which honors young professionals as they enter the graduate program. Winner.





Located at the front of campus, students who entered as freshmen started the graduate program after two years of undergraduate classes.



Dr. John Arnold
teaching since 2008

Setting the standard for Pharmacy

by Craig Kleimeyer

Students in the pharmacy school could spot Dr. Arnold running on the Lakeshore trail in brightly colored attire. First-year pharmacy student Shea Howard said on the first day of class, he gave students his Social Security number, home phone number, cell phone number, home address and several email addresses.

"The subject itself is pretty boring, but he makes it better," said Howard. "You can only make eye drops and rheology interesting in so many ways."

Arnold said that when it comes to his teaching methods, he likes to use a lot of enthusiasm. "The stuff I teach isn't the most exciting stuff, so I try to make students more enthusiastic. A lot of teachers like their class to be quiet, but I like for there to be some energy as well."

He said he hopes his humor helped make the information he taught easier for students to understand.

"I try to inject humor any chance I get," said Arnold. "I try to make sure what I'm saying hopefully would make sense to everybody."

Dr. Arnold has worked at Children's Hospital and at the Duke University Medical Center, as well as for Aerie Pharmaceuticals. Teaching at the University has been his first full-time teaching job. He said he saw himself eventually becoming a professor.

"The position came open, and it was a situation where I suddenly realized where I wanted to be, he said. "God was calling me."

One of the most rewarding parts about teaching for Dr. Arnold was seeing his students grow.

"I have taught students who are now in the fourth year. It's been really cool to teach students the first day of pharmacy school and have them right off the bat, and then to see them again right before they graduate," said Arnold. "I think of them as colleagues now."

Arnold said he cherishes the quality of students in the pharmacy school and the opportunity to impact students' lives.

"It's rewarding knowing that you'll have a chance to impact that many lives," he said.



An organization has the power to influence the entire campus. Whatever your passion may be, campus organizations give you the power to shout it out loud. Love language? Join the French Club. Love service? The Community Service Council is for you. Declare the passions that stir within you, because the fact is, there are other people out there who share your same interests. Organizations are infinite. One can be created by simply submitting a form. So don't let anything hold you back. Passions are too great to be contained. Join an organization, and let your passions shine.

organizations





Organizations

declare your passions

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Student recruitment team

Growing Samford one tour at a time

organizations



Senior Amy Gonzalez spoke on behalf of the business school to perspective students.



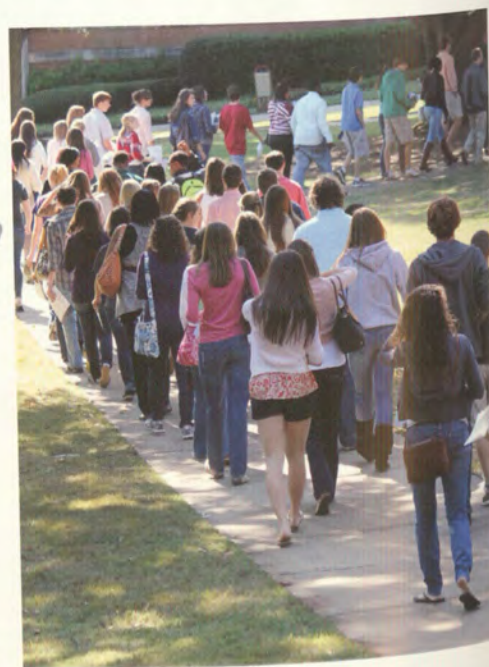
by Lauren Kostoff

The members of the Student Recruitment Team sported red polos and khakis and drove golf carts up hills and on sidewalks. They herded large groups of high school students through the Caf, into the library and across the quad. They could answer any question imaginable about the University. SRT was a group of select students charged with the essential job of sharing with potential students how coming to the University would be the best way they could spend their four years at college.

"SRT is an organization designed to help prospective students get to know Samford through the eyes of current students. When giving tours and talking at academic fairs, I want to give them a real student answer, not something from a brochure," said SRT member and junior history major Margaret Frymire. Frymire and other SRT members stressed the importance of providing prospective students an accurate look into life at the University. This genuine advice given to high school students by real University students helped reassure them that the University could be a great fit.

Junior business major Rebecca Price shared this same goal. "As a member of SRT it is my goal to share my personal experiences at Samford to help prospective students make their important college decision," said Price. "I know how much of a blessing Samford has been in my life, and I hope to share that with potential new members of the Samford community."

But besides answering all of the serious questions prospective students may have about the University, SRT also provided tour goers with some fun and interesting facts. Junior Kate Walker had a favorite fun fact that she shared on her tours. "Mr. Beeson made his millions when he invested his money in his life insurance company stocks just before the crash, and he sold them at the all time high in the 80s, making his millions," said Walker. Rebecca Price's shared hers as well. "There have only been two weddings in Hodges Chapel, both of which were per the request of the Hodges family," she said.

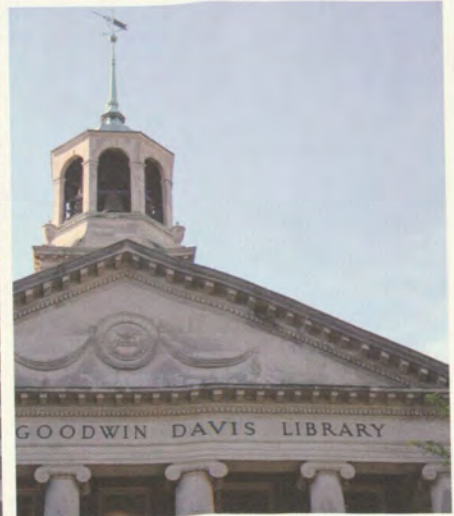


ambassadors

Forming strong Samford ties



With matching blue suits, Caitlin Morris, Emma Perkins and Allison Hubbard served the University throughout the year.



Events hosted by Dr. Westmoreland, whether at his house or on campus, could not have been possible without student ambassadors.

by Madi Dominescy

The Ambassadors served as student liaisons for the University. They represented the University at various events throughout the school year and served as hosts and hostesses, welcoming guests on campus. Members of Ambassadors endured an intense selection process including faculty nominations, applications and interviews. The Ambassadors met every other week to discuss and plan upcoming events. David Goodwin, Director of Alumni and Parent Programs, served as the faculty advisor for the University's Ambassadors program.

Sophomore elementary education major and Ambassador Hannah Barnette has had a great experience serving as an Ambassador. "Serving as an ambassador has been one of the most humbling experiences so far for me at Samford. It has made me appreciate the heart and dedication that people have for this institution," said Barnette. "Having the opportunity to talk with trustees, donors, alumni, and others and being able to see how Samford continues to impact them makes me realize just how blessed I am to be a student at this university."

Homecoming weekend was one of the most important events of the year for the Ambassadors. They met and greeted all of the alumni on campus for the weekend and helped plan events for them. This year, the Ambassadors volunteered to attend various alumni events throughout the weekend. These events included the Homecoming Banquet, the Golden Bulldog Luncheon, Coffee Talk and many more.

"My favorite event that Ambassadors help out with is Homecoming. It is a very cool experience to see alumni who graduated 10, 20, or even 50 years ago reconnect with their college counterparts after years of not seeing them," said sophomore education major Katherine Thomas. "I love hearing them share their stories from their time at Samford. They are absolutely fascinating."

Although Homecoming was their busiest time of year, the Ambassadors attended various events throughout the year and served as an essential part of the University community.



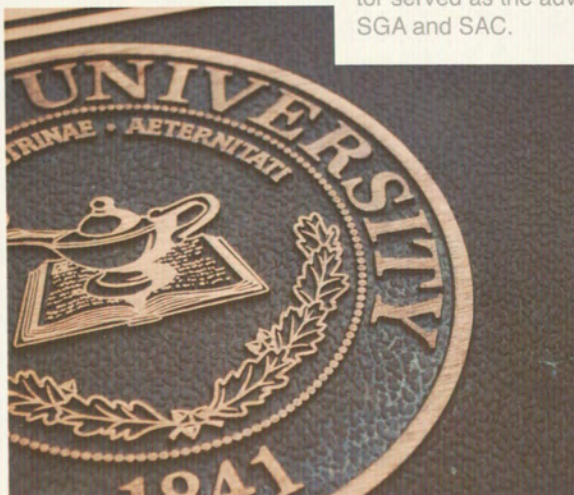
Freshmen and sophomore class officers hosted a day of fun in the sun in the week leading up to final exams.



Paizley Coffey, Drew Hall and David Reece listened to SGA President Riley Westmoreland during a SEB meeting.



Janna Pennington, Director for Student Leadership and Terra Garmon, Events Coordinator served as the advisors for SGA and SAC.





SGA advocates for students to the administration... We listen to what students think and what they need from their Samford experience and work with the right people to make change happen.

Riley Westmoreland

For Students, For a Better Samford

by Allison Cobb

The Student Government Association was a visible organization that allowed students to have a direct effect on campus. SGA was made up of more than 100 students from all classes and all different areas of campus. Senior political science and journalism and mass communication major Riley Westmoreland served as SGA president.

"SGA advocates for students to the administration. I think most people see us as an event planning group, or people who give money to organizations, which is great," Westmoreland said. "But really, we listen to what students think and what they need from their Samford experience and work with the right people to make change happen."

The whole of SGA was broken down into several sections including the Student Executive Board, Presidential Advisory Council, Student Activities Council, and Senate. The SEB was made up of the student body president, the student government vice presidents, and executive officers. While each officer had his or her own branch and individual responsibilities, members work together toward bettering the University community and to do everything according to their motto this year—"For Students, For a Better Samford."

The most visible branch of SGA was the SAC. If there was an event, they planned it and made it happen. Some of the fun events planned included: Welcome Back Week, Homecoming, Lighting of the Way, and Spring Fling. While these events were annual traditions on campus, SAC added its own creative touch. Dierks Bentley welcomed students back from summer with an exciting concert held on the Quad.

Senate acted as the students' direct connection to the University administration. Junior finance and economics major David Reece served as Vice President of Senate.

"Senate is the engine of SGA," Reece said. "Through resolutions, the elected students give the administration insight into the needs of the Samford community."

As a group, Senate members allocated funds to student organizations and teams. In conjunction with the other branches of SGA, Senate strived to create positive change on campus. SGA was a great way for people to get involved, give back and learn about the University and how to be better leaders, both now and for the future.

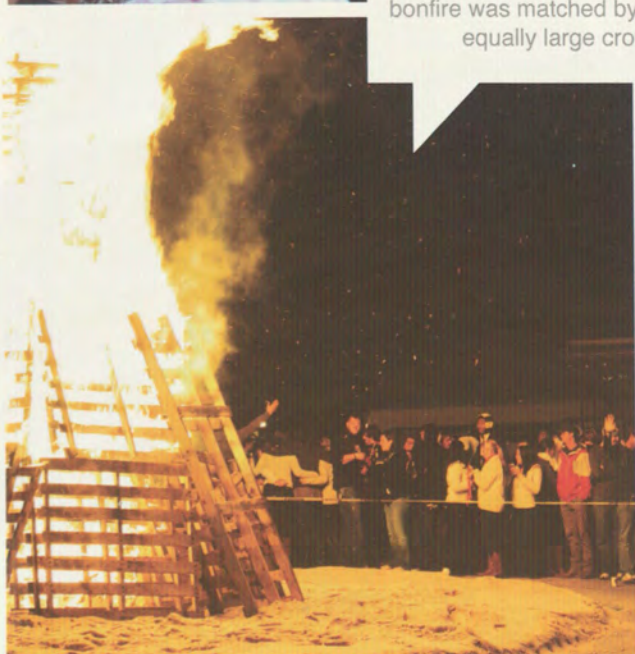
RALPH W. BEESON UNIVERSITY CENTER



Tim Foote and Juan Campos ran along the inflatable bungee run during a spring Fountain Fundy.



The massive homecoming bonfire was matched by an equally large crowd.



Your School, Your City hosted country superstar, Dierks Bentley, who played on the Quad to kick start Welcome Back Week.



Rebecca Price and Josh Lingreen acted as MCs for the homecoming bonfire concert and pep rally.

sac

Planning all your favorite events

by Sarah Waller

For the average student, a University event meant free food, activities and maybe a few giveaways. But for the members of the Student Activities Council, it meant running around, searching for random items and making sure everything was in place before the masses hit.

Planning University events was often times a tiring, thankless task, but SAC took on the challenge and said it was all worth it in the end.

For Trevor Starnes, a senior history major and the Vice President for Events, planning and executing the two major concerts, Dierks Bentley during Welcome Back and Switchfoot during Spring Fling, was a crazy undertaking, but he admitted that the work paid off. "The greatest reward is once the artist goes on stage, I can step back and listen to beautiful music. There is no greater joy at a concert than to plan the entire event and then get to enjoy the music. It is the best of both worlds. Plus, it's free."

SAC was broken up into four branches with directors that headed up each branch: Annual Events, Special Events, Musical Entertainment and Public Relations. With events spaced throughout the semester, SAC never slowed down, constantly challenging themselves to make each event bigger and better than it has ever been.

"I think all the events get bigger every year," said Karlie Calhoun, a junior biology major and Annual Events Director. "During my freshmen year, the events did not seem like much. It was like, 'Oh, what is this out here for?' But now people are anticipating events before they start."

When starting to plan an event, Calhoun said she picked a mindset she wanted the event to be about. "Welcome Back week is planned around upperclassman coming home and freshmen making a new one."



Directors of musical entertainment Steven Stinson and Logan Dillard worked behind the scenes at Spring Fling's Battle of the Bands.

Homecoming is all about tradition and Spring Fling is about relaxing before finals week takes over."

Homecoming took the focus of promoting school spirit, even working with the University's Athletics department to promote the weekend's football game and the team as a whole. Football coach Pat Sullivan spoke at the bonfire prep rally, and "Bow Wow" towels were passed out before the game.

SAC also made sure to keep with tradition, hosting "Wing Fling" during Spring Fling and Dinner on the Dirt during Welcome Back, but they also solidified new traditions by recreating them for a second year. Both the Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Fling's Flea Market returned for its second year, confirming its place in University tradition.

When it comes to planning events, SAC kept the student body in mind, but with so many opinions, members like Calhoun realized some might disagree. "It is hard to please everyone," Calhoun said. "There will always be a group of people who don't like your ideas and think you could have done something different, something better."

But according to Starnes, SAC saw an incredible amount of growth since he first joined as a sophomore. "SAC has become an organization that students want to be a part of and an organization that seeks to create events to reach out to a diverse mixture of students," he said.



Community service Council

Engaging in Birmingham's community

by Laura Beth Allen

organizations

The word "service" was thrown around in practically every other conversation, and students were pushed to pursue investments that extend beyond themselves. From employees in the cafeteria adhering to student's distinctive requests, to Student Government Association consistently providing free events and activities, students lived in an atmosphere where they were continually being served either by peers or campus workers. Yet for many on campus, the increasing of knowledge and maturity ignited an innate desire to become an active participant and shoulder responsibility in the local community.

Community Service Council was an organization that extended an invitation to students to actually become the servants instead of being the ones passively being served. It had been active for almost three years, attempting to bridge the concepts of service within the University to the larger community of Birmingham. The council organized Samford Gives Back each semester and also provided monthly opportunities to serve on "City Saturdays."

As in breaking ground on new, foreign territory, time was often required to actually see fruits from the labor required to initiate the efforts. This same principle applied to a new organization attempting to take root.

"We hope to encourage and enable students to serve with these organizations by raising awareness of the

needs of the Birmingham community and providing students with opportunities to meet these needs," said sophomore nutrition major and president Taylor Kingston.

In the spring, CSC helped with Project Homeless Connect, which gathered many different agencies and faith-based organizations to link homeless individuals to resources as well as organizing Samford Gives Back. Passivity was something that can easily trap people. However, CSC encouraged active engagement in Birmingham and provided the opportunity to recognize there life exists outside of manicured lawns and O'Henry's Coffeehouse.

While there was not an overwhelming religious focus, junior communication studies major Anneleyce Alexander said faith was still a part of CSC's service.

"We don't place a lot of emphasis on the religious factor, because there are already a number of organizations that do that," said Alexander. "However, through the very act of service we are set up to encounter Jesus in unexpected and broken places. We want to be about entering the lives of others to show them that there is good and hope in the world."

Students were provided with opportunity to experience walking and serving humbly alongside organizations and people who were in varying stages of life and circumstances.

Students answered the call after tornadoes swept through the state, removing fallen trees and debris.





Leah Clements led a short devotion before groups headed out for spring's Samford Gives Back.



Students worked with organizations like Habitat for Humanity throughout the school year.



University students had a major presence at Home-wood's Relay for Life.

Student media

Creating news that resonates with the student body

by Jonathan Adams

Drew Laing anticipated a late night every Tuesday. As editor-in-chief of the Samford Crimson, Drew knew that the weekly newspaper would go from his hands into the hands of the students tomorrow, and he wanted it to be letter-perfect.

"The earliest I've ever finished on a Tuesday is 12:30 a.m.," he said. "The latest, 5:30."

Laing, a junior journalism and mass communication major, is one of about 130 students involved in the University's student media. Though he's often frazzled, Laing said he has no regrets about signing on.

"It's actually been really rewarding," said Laing. "It's been really nice to get the Crimson out to the students."

Student media adviser Kenny Smith said that student media at the University was reaching new heights.

"Everything in the past five years has shown growth," says Smith. "The JMC department is growing and the students work hard. We're doing a lot of really cool things."

Of course, the Samford Crimson isn't the only facet of student media. Another student media outlet, the Samford News Network, was also booming thanks to the efforts of professors Jon Clemmensen and Lee Farquhar.

"SNN is going high definition," said Smith. "There's going to be a day when we'll have a continual broadcast."

Smith said that Exodus, the University's student magazine, is also doing well. The JMC department recently improved the paper quality of the magazine, making it look more professional. "It's always been an award-winning magazine," said Smith.

Though media is rapidly involving, the JMC department prided itself in equipping journalists with a variety of skills through the various media organizations. "Our department has been able to stay ahead of the curve because we're cutting-edge," said Smith. "We teach students to be multimedia journalists."

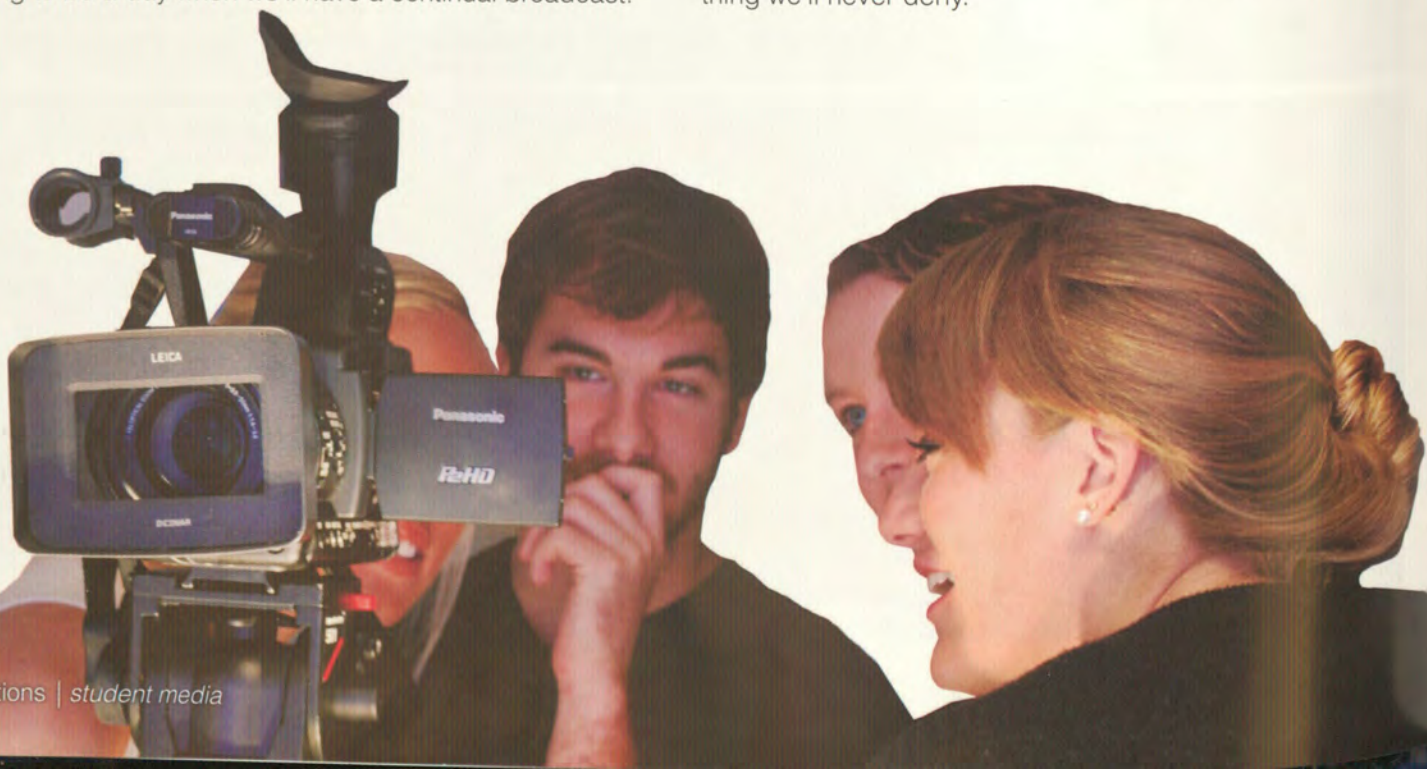
Smith invites all majors to get involved with student media. "It's valuable for students," he said. "They will think about media in a different way."

Smith especially encouraged students in the JMC department to take part. "It improves your craft," he said. "It proves that not only you can write or broadcast but you can do so on a deadline."

Laing found getting involved to be quite simple. "If you want to write for the Crimson, just contact one of the editors and they'll send you weekly emails of story ideas," said Laing.

Laing hoped to turn the Samford Crimson from a good newspaper into a great one. He planned to make it more student-centric as the year progressed.

To do so, he needed plenty of students. "We'd love to have as much help as possible," he said. "That's something we'll never deny."





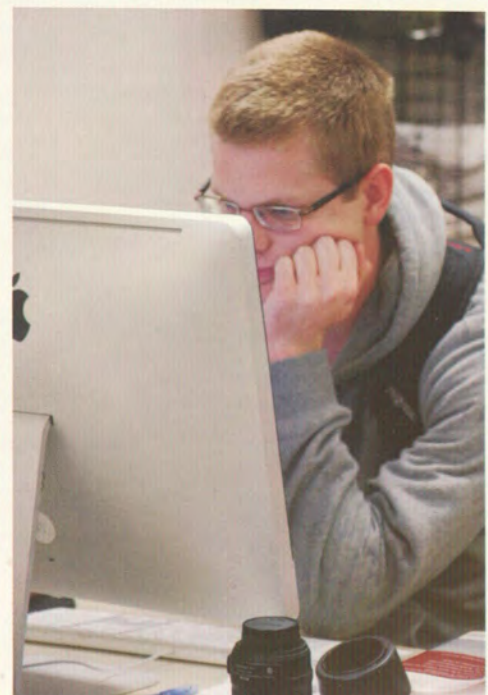
Members of the SSN team met to compile different news packages into a full-length news broadcast.



The editorial staff of Entre Nous posed for a picture following a Friday afternoon meeting.



The people behind the Crimson newspaper worked diligently to meet deadlines and stay on top of current news.



gamma

Sigma Sigma

Serving as a community

by Elizabeth Gardner

organizations

Gamma Sigma Sigma, the University's service sorority, was the largest service-oriented organization on campus. Traditionally an all-female group, the Delta Sigma chapter was the first chapter in its district – which includes Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida – to induct male members. Though Gamma Sigma Sigma called itself a sorority, membership was all-inclusive, and the male members were recruited during a successful spring rush. Haley Shore, a senior exercise science major, served as chapter president. “I feel like it is a huge stepping stone towards growth that there is a wider, more diverse group that wants to be a part of what Gamma Sigma Sigma is all about,” said Shore.

Clearly, service was a large part of what Gamma Sigma Sigma is about; the organization's motto is, after all, “unity in service.” But the organization was based on two other ideals as well: friendship and equality. The addition of male members certainly embodied the notion of equality.

The group's numerous service projects gave ample opportunities for the members to form lasting bonds. These activities included the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, March of Dimes' March for Babies and the annual Trick-or-Treat for Canned Goods. For this event, members teamed up and headed out into local neighborhoods, costumes and all, asking for nonper-

Shantel Waters and Taneshia McGee proudly wore their Greek letters.



Gamma Sigma Sigma went door to door on Halloween asking for donations instead of candy.



Girls gathered to celebrate the engagement of Krysia Kimlin at a white candle ceremony.



ishables for the local food bank in lieu of candy. This gave the girls (and now boys) a chance to have fun, and it provided the food bank much needed supplies in preparation for Thanksgiving. "It gives us a chance to cut loose and have fun, but it is also a great opportunity to get our name out in the community so they know that there are college students who care," said Shore, who said it was her personal favorite.

Getting the name out was an important step in a new direction for Gamma Sigma Sigma. Previously focused on national groups and initiatives, the chapter would like to spend time with more local charities and volunteer organizations. The members would also like to have a greater presence on campus, and they planned to

achieve this by working with other organizations on projects and participating in the biannual Samford Gives Back.

Gamma Sigma Sigma provided wonderful service to the community, but the benefits did not stop with service. Members were also personally impacted and changed by their time in the organization. "Gamma Sigma Sigma has made me more aware of how many people are in need, locally and nationally," said Shore. "We're constantly working with so many organizations, and it really emphasizes the number of people we could still help."

Morgan Rhinehart and Haley Shore posed for a picture during a meeting in the Howard Room.



Gamma Sigma Sigma made sure their cheers were heard as they marched in the Homecoming parade.



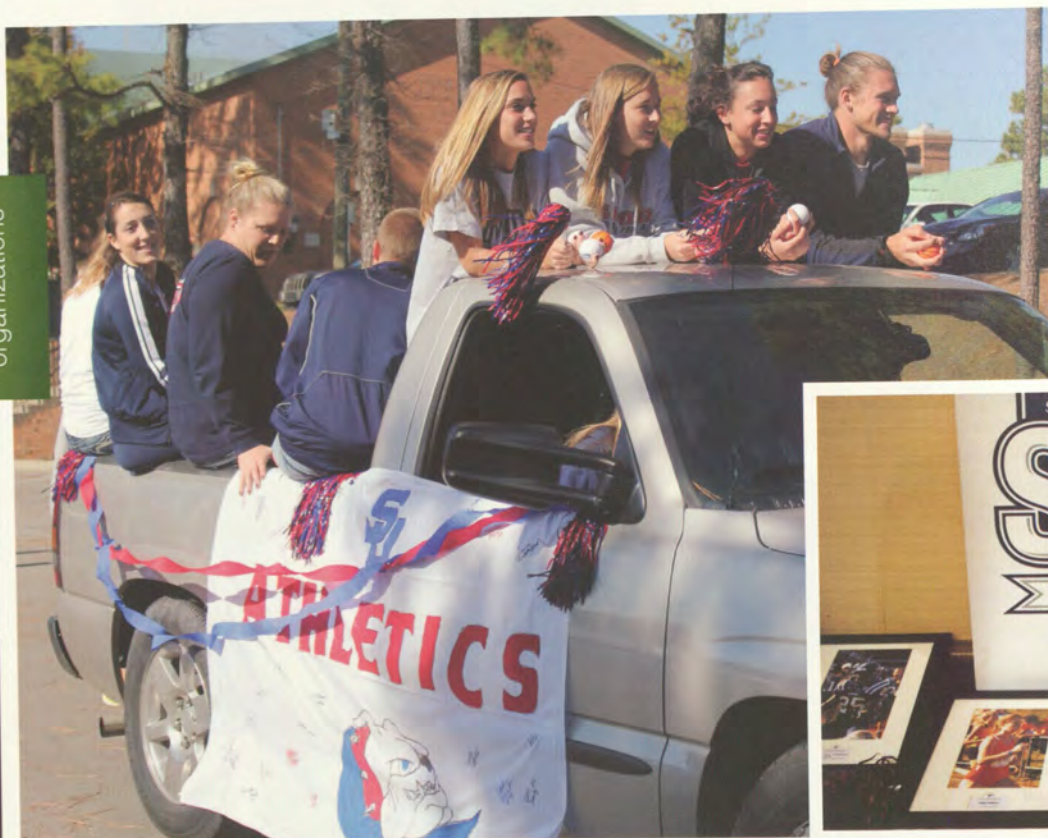
saac

SAAC enabled me to become more well-rounded in learning from and working alongside a core group of great people over the past four years.

Davis Harrison

Making a difference both on and off the field

organizations



by Logan Heim

When most people think about athletes they think about their actions on the field, on the court or in the gym. Many don't realize that athletes serve their campus and their communities in more places and ways than just in the game.

The Student Athlete Advisory Committee was an organization of select student athletes who were chosen to represent their respected teams to the athletic department, the University, the SoCon, the NCAA and the surrounding communities. The group was made up of student athletes who wanted to be involved and make a positive difference both on and off campus. SAAC included several representatives from each sport at the University.

SAAC gave back to the Birmingham community in a variety of ways. Community Service Chair Sarah Butts brought together over 100 athletes to participate in Samford Gives Back in December, where the athletes worked alongside the Christian Service Mission and Habitat for Humanity to help those in Birmingham area who were gravely affected by the April 27th tornadoes.

In December, SAAC also organized a group of athletes who delivered gifts to Charles Brown Elementary School. The athletes were asked to raise donations from their teams so that they could sponsor and provide presents to the whole school. Through their efforts, the group raised over 1,300 dollars to purchase gifts. The athletes then shopped, wrapped and delivered all of the presents themselves.

Athletes found membership in SAAC to be very beneficial.

"Being a member of SAAC has had a tremendous impact on my Samford experience," said Davis Harrison. "SAAC enabled me to become more well-rounded in learning from and working alongside a core group of great people over the past four years."

SAAC offered athletes the opportunity to make a difference both on and off the field, ultimately bettering the individuals, the organization, the athletic department, the University and the Birmingham community.

The red sea

An ever-present sea of spirit

by Caroline Payne

Scanning the stands, University football fans appear to dress much like any other school: girls in summer dresses, guys in polo shirts, children with t-shirts and bulldog stickers. However, look a bit more closely and you'll notice something—a sea of red, otherwise known as The Red Sea. Hundreds of avid student sports fans dressed in red t-shirts and often face paint. Like a wild sea, students wave and jump and roar with the tide of the game.

"I have been a Red Sea member since freshman year and a committee member since sophomore year," said junior committee member and journalism and mass communication major Allison Hubbard. "My favorite part is the opportunity that it gives students to get involved, support their team, and have pride for their school by continuing the University's athletic traditions."

Red Sea members attended sporting events of all kinds across campus to earn points and win Red Sea gear. Some of the Red Sea prizes included lanyards, hats, t-shirts and pullovers. Students who racked up major points could even qualify for big prizes such as iPads, TVs, gift cards or a trip to see the Atlanta Braves.

Red Sea points were designated by sport. For football, students earned one point, and for men's basketball and baseball they earned two points. Soccer, volleyball and tennis were all three-point sports and women's basketball and softball are worth four points.

Other perks of joining the Red Sea included the drawing for Fan of the Month. Each winning fan received prizes. In addition, the Rookie of the Year awards acknowledged the freshman with the most credits at the end of the year.

"The committee is really pushing tailgating this year and the mindset that Samford has great athletic programs that have experienced a lot of success," said Hubbard.

"We want to create a great atmosphere in the student section by emphasizing tradition and spirit."

The Red Sea continued its experience vast growth that has existed since its implementation.

"I have seen a steady growth in the amount of people attending each game each year I have been at Samford," said junior economics major Jacob Dyke, who was famous for dressing up as Moses for every game. "The Red Sea has been at the front of this growth. It has showed students how to really get involved in sporting events." The Red Sea continues to develop ideas to continue their growth.



college republicans



An elephant in the room

by Caroline Payne

The College Republicans hosted many spectacular events and welcomed numerous influential leaders from across the country to educate students on the goals of the Republican Party. With a goal "to promote, support and actively volunteer in advocacy of a better, stronger America and a more responsible, citizen friendly Alabama" clearly stated on the group's home page, the College Republicans followed through with their goals in many ways.

Beginning in the fall, the College Republicans made a great push to reach out to the University community through activities such as tailgating with the Greek community, hosting a movie night in remembrance of September 11, and holding a political forum with the College Democrats. The group also hosted such prestigious speakers as Marty Connors, financial aid to Mitt Romney and former Chair of Alabama Republican Party and Chairman of the Alabama Republican Party, Bill Armistead.

Chairwoman Weathers Veazey, a junior political science major, enjoyed Armistead's visit. "I personally enjoyed when Chairman Armistead came to speak because he

was our Chapter founder," she said. "It was great to have him."

By far the most exciting event of the year for the College Republicans was the visit of Herman Cain, a then presidential candidate, during the Homecoming tailgate.

"I really enjoyed the Herman Cain event because he was at the time the frontrunner for the Presidential Nominee," said Veazey. "It was such an honor to have him on Samford's campus."

While at the University, Cain flipped the coin for the football game and greeted hundreds of excited students and potential voters.

In the spring, the College Republicans participated in the Jefferson County Straw Poll and Primary Night viewing parties in support of the Republican Party. On March 12, the group had the remarkable opportunity to attend the Presidential Forum at the Alabama Theatre, where candidates Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich both spoke.

"All of our events have been really strong so far this year," Veazey said. "I am looking forward to next year with the election turning out the way it has so far."



Herman Cain shook hands and posed for pictures with students in Ben Brown during the Homecoming tailgate.



Club leaders met with Chairman Armistead after he spoke to the group.





college democrats

Grew under new leadership

by Amy Vu

College Democrats, one of the smallest groups on campus, saw a rise in publicity this year with a newly updated Facebook page and leadership under junior history major Joe Clark.

The group, which brought in new members each year through the annual organization fair and word of mouth, met monthly to discuss current topics in politics and to offer a place where students could come hang out for an hour or so. The purpose of the organization was not just to be another name on campus: the officers were also in contact with local politicians and tried to bring awareness to the student population.

The organization was in contact with Rep. Terry Sewell, the U.S. Representative for Alabama's seventh congressional district. She offered networking opportunities and allowed the University's installment of College Democrats to make a presence on the state level. The officers also discussed events for the upcoming year, since the election was a hot topic as always.

The organization's goal was to offer the student body "a venue for open thought and discourse, challenging popular belief in a fun and relaxed environment." Their meetings were typically small, but the organization saw a rise in number of emails asking for more information.

Last year's president and senior political science major Cortrell Whitfield spoke highly of the organization.

"Samford's College Democrats has strived to offer a venue for students to be the voice for the voiceless in community, state and country," Whitfield said.

Whitfield helped the current group with public relations and offered advice as well as an aspect of fun to meetings.

"Being a member of Samford Democrats has been a very rewarding opportunity," said Megan Beavers, a journalism and mass communication major who also serves as secretary for the organization.

Although they were a small group, the students that made up the University's chapter of College Democrats were truly passionate about their beliefs.

"Open and free thinking meant a lot to the organization," said Beavers. "I'm grateful for the chance to be an officer of a group of college kids that are really passionate about the causes that they advocate for."

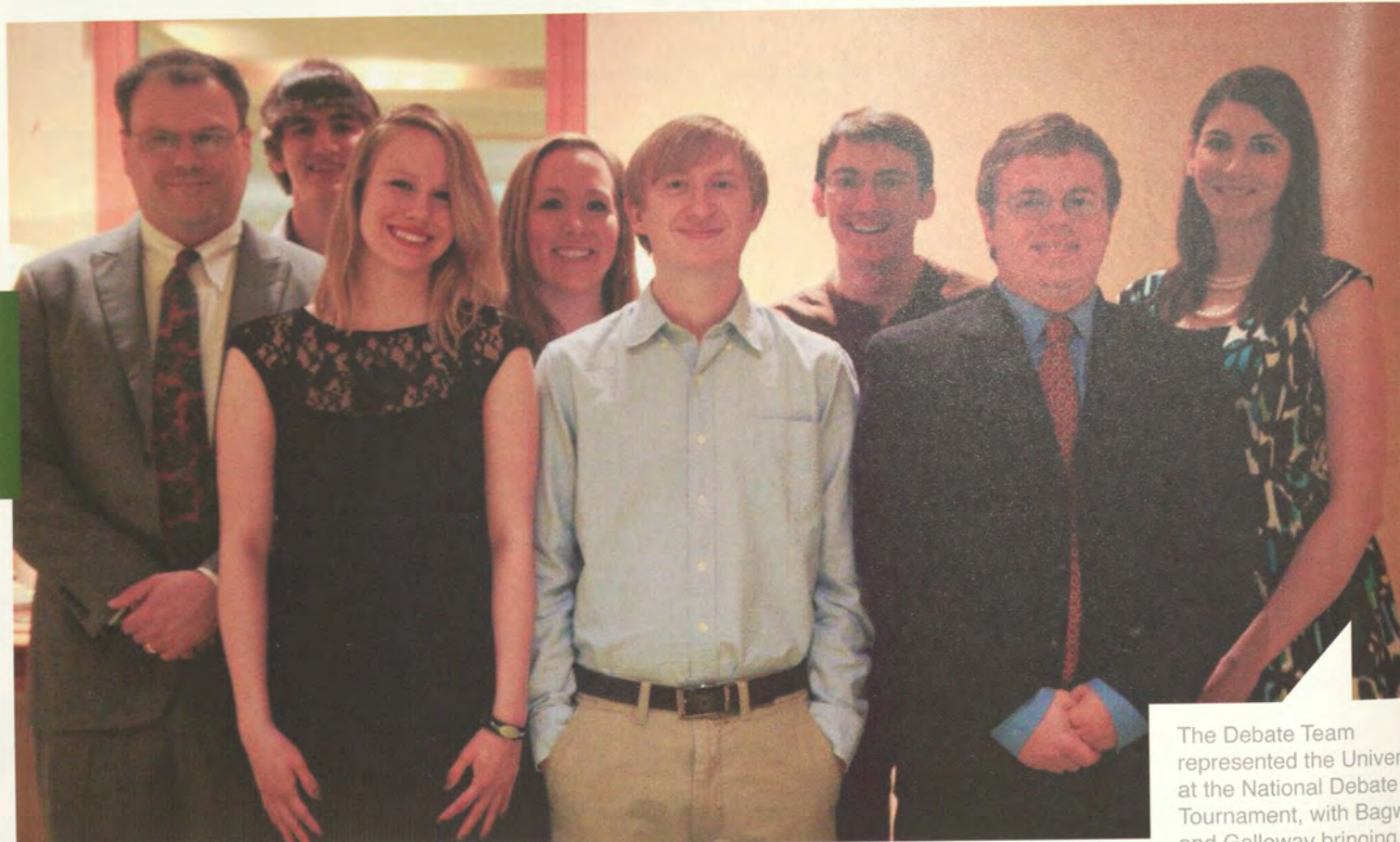


College democrats participated in a political debate with the college republicans.



debate team

Quick speech and quicker wits



The Debate Team represented the University at the National Debate Tournament, with Bagwell and Galloway bringing home top honors.

by Jonathan Adams

Dan Bagwell's version of a spring break was far from typical.

A member of the University's debate team, the senior journalism and mass communication major spent most of his vacation researching, writing and planning for the upcoming National Debate Tournament. Bagwell and the other members of the team spent 20 to 40 hours weekly in preparation for upcoming events, said director and communication studies professor Ryan Galloway.

"A debate student will write a master's thesis worth of research as an undergraduate student," he said.

That's what it took to keep such a prestigious status. Founded in 1841, the University's debate team continued to propel to new heights. The team won the national championship title in 1970 and 1972 and placed in the top four teams in 1980 and 1983. The team also placed second in the Pittsburgh Round Robin tournament, an event open to only the top 25 teams in the country.

Individuals on the team received their fair share of accolades. Bagwell was the second seat in the district and

top speaker in the southeast in the Cross Examination Debate Association. In addition, Galloway was nationally ranked the third best debate judge in the past decade. "We sorry kids have been doing this for a long time, and we've been pretty successful," joked Galloway.

Maintaining that success demanded enormous dedication from team members – but they were enthusiastic.

"It teaches me to critically think and research," Bagwell says. "It's my eighth year doing this. I love it."

"People think it's like the movie 'The Great Debaters,'" said Jacob Lewis, a senior history major. "It's really much faster and a lot more technical."

Preparing for tournaments was far from a magical movie scene. Doing so required months of rehearsing arguments among team members. Each team member also intensively researched a particular aspect of the issue at hand and then shared his or her findings with the team.

The debate team wanted its peers to know, first and foremost, that it existed. "Most students think we're nerds in suits," said Bagwell. "But we're not."

rotc

Taking flight to the future

by Laura Beth Allen

Tucked behind sorority row in West Campus was a white brick building that was home to the "Dirty Dozen," otherwise known as the AFROTC Detachment 012. This detachment serviced the entire Birmingham area by recruiting students from UAB, Miles College, Jeff State and others to serve the United States Air Force. ROTC was a program that was not only designed to better equip officers for their future, but it also instilled critical skills of leadership and responsibility in a highly structured way.

Students participated in Leadership Lab and Physical Training that took at least four hours a week. Choosing to be a part of ROTC was not like joining a community service organization—it was a path that could jumpstart a student's future career. The more successful and dedicated the cadets were, the more likely they were to someday receive a pilot or navigators slot, which were highly competitive.

"ROTC is something I never would have expected to become so passionate about. I had no clue as to what I was getting myself into, and it has impacted my life

so much," said senior nursing major Kelly Polo. "The sense of camaraderie and being a part of something so much bigger than me is something I will be able to carry throughout my life."

While the cadets made up the body of the detachment, the cadre members were the head leadership that helped to guide and build up the future Air Force officers as they learned to balance future military plans with current academic pursuits. The detachment commemorated its 40th anniversary, and alumni and current students celebrated the occasion at the Southern Museum of Flight. Attendees commemorated the Air Force and the officers that have come from Det 012, as well as the current commitment to service and the continuing tradition of high moral integrity and leadership.

ROTC cadets had an unique curriculum that combined their undergraduate studies with military training.



Reaching out to the community, cadets worked with handicap students, playing sports with them and making friendships.



Training brought the ROTC cadets together, establishing a community sense of family.



model un

Stretching beyond the U.S.

by Amy Vu

This year, the University's Model United Nations team traveled to Washington, D.C. and represented Portugal, winning an honorable delegation award and adding to the many plaques that the team has earned over the years.

Head delegate Devon Arnold and research assistant Thomas Espy, both junior international relations majors, led the 2011-2012 team. Their new advisor was political science professor Dr. Serena Simoni, whom the university hired from Italy. Another officer position was secretary, held by senior international relations major Gabi Cappo.

The group, composed of eleven members this year, annually competes in both national and international simulations of real United Nations conferences, having traveled in past years to places like New York City and Quito, Ecuador. The members hosted a try-out session during which those who are interested participate in a hands-on simulation of a conference.

During conferences, the group split into pairs or single-person teams, which were assigned a specific assembly of the United Nations. Then, the members debated with representatives from other nations in a week-long mock assembly.

Although most of the team consisted of international relations majors, there were also members from various fields of study including biology and sports medicine.

"My favorite thing about the MUN team is the experience of the conferences and settling world issues diplomatically. I've never felt so immersed and involved in world politics and I know this experience and knowledge will benefit me the rest of my life once I enter the work force," said senior international relations major Sam McFarland. "The people you meet at conferences are incredible, too. I feel like I'm meeting important future diplomats, politicians and leaders from all over the world and the connections forged are second to none."

McFarland also discussed the team's spring conference, which gave the members the opportunity of traveling to Salamanca, Spain. There, they represented Brazil, Germany, France and Japan.

Being on the team seems to be a truly rewarding experience. "My favorite thing about MUN is that it allows me to have a community of friends with people that I would not otherwise know," said senior international relations major Mary Evelyn Todd. "I am also blessed by the opportunities that it has provided thought both gaining knowledge and experiences."





film club

Good films were worth the effort

by Craig Kleimeyer

The 20 or so members of Film Club helped increase the club's presence on campus through numerous film screenings and the end of the year "Snapshot" competition. Junior Drew Young, an English major with a concentration in film studies, served as Film Club president for the second year. Young was impressed by the turnout at the screenings and enjoyed the club member's commonalities.

"As many as 100 came out to the film screenings," Young said. "The big plan is to try and make an impact on campus. I always like meeting new people who are interested in film, students from outside your classroom who are interested in the same thing."

Since the club had to pay to show the movies, Young said he wants to make sure it is worth the money. "I saw a lot of potential in it before, and I think people know about us a little more now," he said. "Film Club is good about showing a diverse group of films so that there's something interesting for everyone, regardless of what your major is."

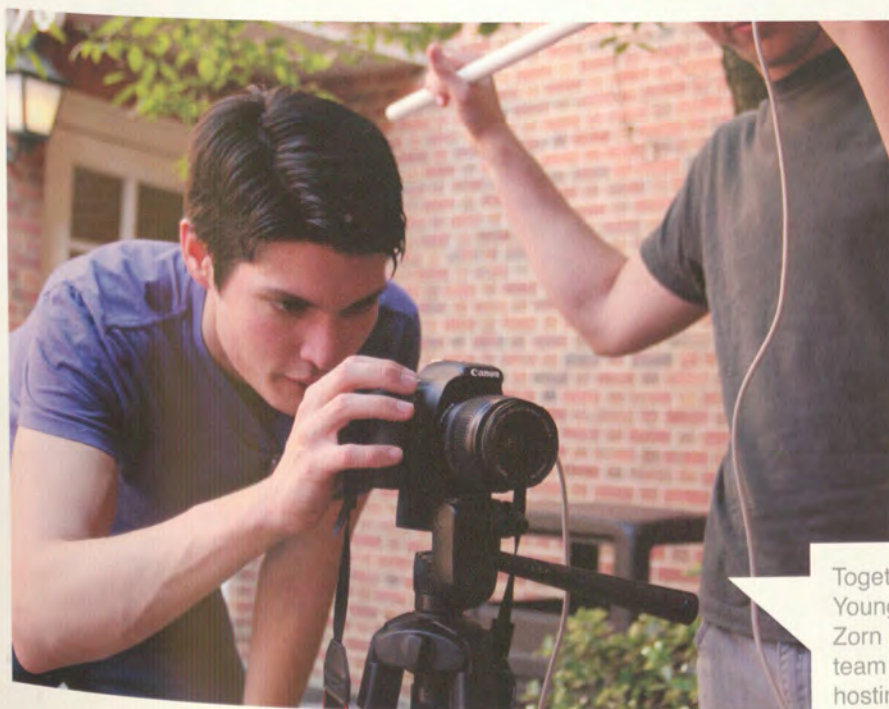
In the fall, Film Club hosted numerous films, including "The Illusionist," a French animated film, which they showed in the Planetarium. For Halloween, they showed the movie "Halloween" and had a costume contest. In November, they joined up with the English honor society, Sigma Tau Delta, to host the movie "Sense and Sensibil-

ity." They also showed the movie "Mississippi Remix," a documentary, and the director came and spoke.

In the spring, the Film Club held several events, but the main one was the "Snapshot" competition, which started at 5 p.m. on April 13 and ended on April 15 at 5 p.m. For the competition, the club split up into five different teams. Each team was given a different photo to serve as an inspiration for the team's film. Teams filmed during those 48 hours and had to turn in their DVD at 5 p.m. on April 15.

Young's team, which consisted of himself, Caleb Zorn, Rex Walker, Daniel Broderick and Samantha Smith, won the competition with their film "Poser." Several English professors and a journalism and mass communication professor judged the competition. The team was also awarded with the Audience Choice Award after the April 20 screenings.

Young said Film Club hopes to continue to grow and to keep up with other clubs on campus, which they worked hard doing recently by putting up posters around campus and flyers in the Caf. "We want to show that movies are interesting and important to everyone," Young said. "At the end of the day, it is still an educational experience and as a club, we want to enrich the lives of students."



Together, Drew Young and Caleb Zorn made a good team creating and hosting films.

french Club

A petite taste of France

by Caroline Payne

The French Club hosted many activities including film screenings, experienced speakers, museum visits and French table in the cafeteria. Some films were screened in the planetarium, such as "Les Choristes," "Emoifs Anonymes" and "Joyeux Noel." Student Emilee Rogers spoke about her mission trip to Haiti during one meeting, and Professor Félix Sánchez spoke to students about French Cinema. The club also visited the exhibit Daumier: Art for the Masses at the Birmingham Museum of Art during November to explore the works of the French artist Honoré Daumier.

At the beginning of the fall semester, the French Club voted for Rachael Sarrett president and Kate Walker as public relations officer.

"We have elections at the beginning of the year," said junior psychology major Rachael Sarrett. "We have nominations for the two positions, each nominee stands up and says why he/she would be a good choice for that position, and then we vote."

"I've been involved with the French club since the beginning of my freshman year, and I enjoy going to all of the events," said junior international relations and French double major Kate Walker. "I decided to run for Public Relations officer because I wanted to be involved in planning fun events for the members, and because I thought it would be a good capacity for me to serve. My favorite part is seeing how the club runs from a behind the scenes perspective. It makes me appreciate all the planning and communication that goes into making events successful."

"Last year we had a cheese tasting that was so much fun," said Walker. "French food is delicious!"

French Club students also participated in French Table. Every week in the Caf and the food court, Monsieur Félix Sánchez, a native French speaker, would lead the French table in conversation.



spanish Club

Reaching outside the barriers of language

by Megan Thompson

We are often called to help community members who are in need. However, what becomes of those who are separated from us by cultural differences, such as language barriers? The Spanish Club stood to bridge the gaps that hinder a student's outreach.

Spanish Club president Sarah Frisbie, a senior Spanish major, said the club was a vehicle for not only teaching students the ways of other cultures within the campus, but going out and actively assisting those in need.

One of the club's main events was a salsa night, during which professional dancers taught the club's members and other students Latin-style dances. Proceeds from the salsa night went toward the Backpack Program, which provided a backpack filled with food to children on free and reduced lunch programs at their schools.

"Spanish Club is an outlet to make the community a better place, starting with the children," said Frisbie.

Senior nutrition and dietetics major Kimberly Johnson agreed.

"My favorite part of Spanish Club is Cuenta Cuentos, which is story time in Spanish at the Hoover Library," said Johnson. "We have many Hispanic families that participate. It is a wonderful way for us to exemplify Christ's love to our community and practice Spanish at the same time."

The Spanish Club hosted several events throughout the year that allowed students to be submerged in the culture. The club threw a Cinco de Mayo celebration in the spring, serving salsa and cheese dip in Ben Brown Plaza, as well as a Dia de los Muertos art contest in the fall. The club also celebrated Hispanic heritage with movie showings throughout the year.

Spanish club offered numerous benefits to members, said Frisbie. "These activities let students cultivate interest in another culture and demonstrate acceptance of others' differences. They also demonstrate acceptance in the communities in Birmingham, promoting rather than hindering communication to eliminate poverty, reach out and show that University students are concerned for the well-being of Hispanic communities."

Junior business major Jenee Spencer said Spanish Club was an excellent club for all majors. "Spanish Club provides a great experience for everyone," said Spencer. "It provides an opportunity for those with differing interests to expand their knowledge of other cultures."



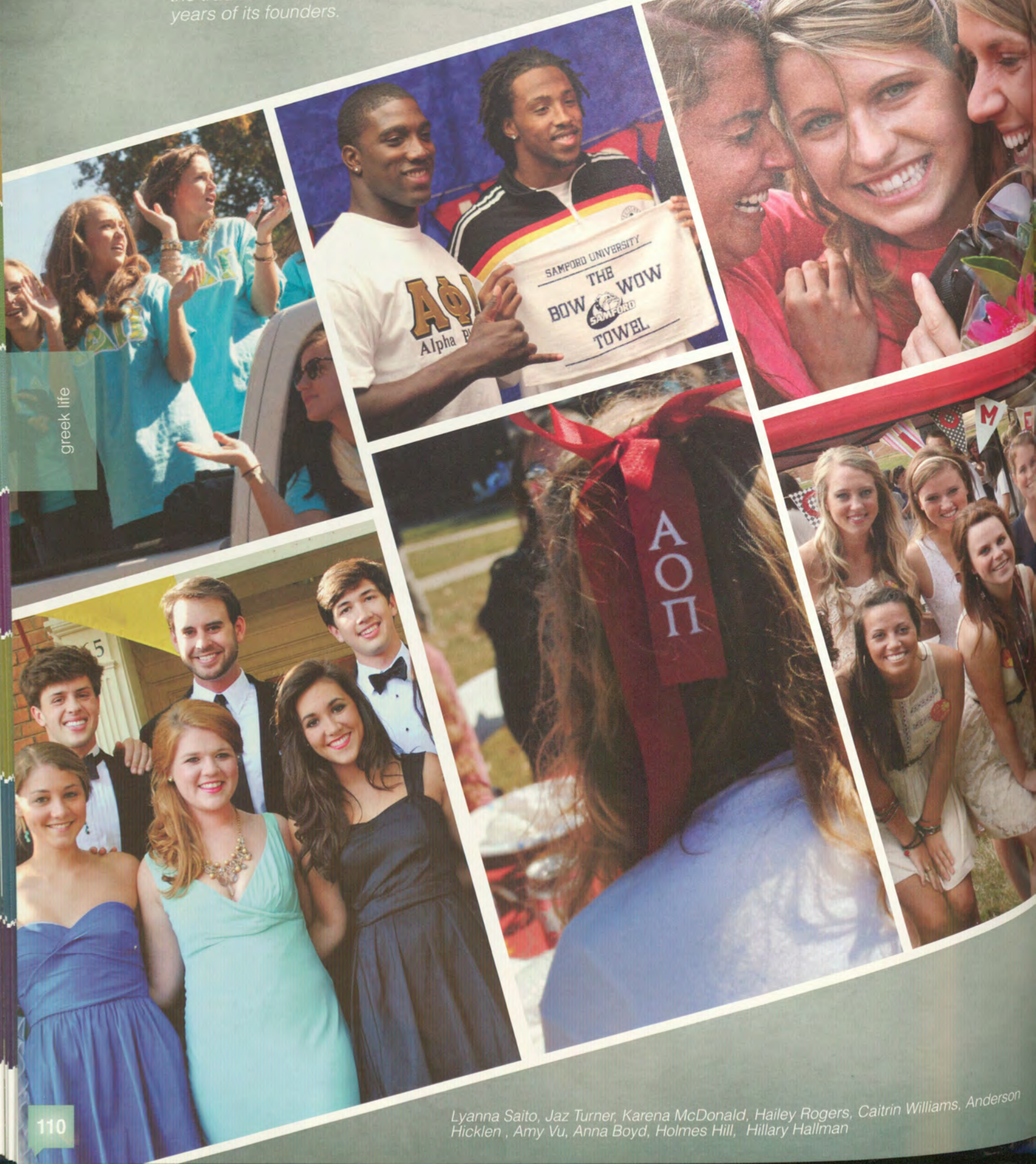
Spanish Club hosted Salsa Night in the Harry's where professional dancers taught students the proper techniques.





Girls were spotted cheering and squealing on the quad. Boys were heard booing from the Wright Center stage. To put it simply, we declared our letters in different ways. But together, we made up the Greek community. With 14 Greek organizations on campus, letters were important. They were disguisable. They carried meaning. And whether you wore them on your shirt or declared them in a song, Greek letters carries the ceremony and the tradition that dated back to the years of its founders.

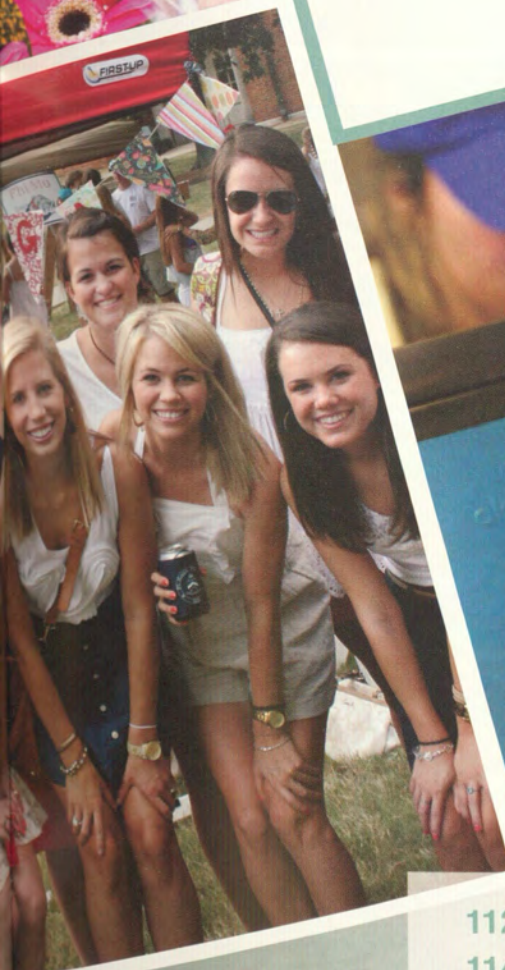
greek life





reek life

declare
your letters



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recruitment

Recruitment Brought Excitement and Social Opportunities

by Allison Cobb

Whether you were a potential new member, a Greek affiliate, or a Greek Life representative, the excitement of recruitment was contagious. In conjunction with Greek Life director Denny Bubrig, the Panhellenic Council and Interfraternity Council worked tirelessly to plan recruitment. Sorority recruitment kicked off on Sunday, September 11 with an open house. A new addition to sorority recruitment, open house gave potential new members (PNMs) an opportunity to visit all five houses and learn about each organization.

Due to the overwhelming number of participants, Philanthropy Night, the first round of recruitment parties, was divided into two nights this year. The energy in sorority quad was palpable as sorority members lined their foyers, shouting their chants and beating on the front door. Led by rho gammas, disaffiliated sorority members who acted as a guide for the PNMs throughout the recruitment process, the girls visited each sorority house. Philanthropy Night gave the PNMs a chance to hear about each sorority's philanthropy. The following evening, theme night, allowed the girls to learn more about each sorority's founding principles and values. The final night of recruitment was Pref, or Preference, Night. Pref was the most serious of the three rounds of recruitment. After recruitment ended, on Monday, September 19, the PNMs filed into the Wright Center to receive their bids, and the sororities, decked out in their sorority's colors, gathered in the quad waiting to welcome their new members on Bid Day. After being given the signal, the PNMs opened their bid cards and ran to the quad and their new sorority sisters. Parents, alumni and students came out to watch the event that was nicknamed "squeal."

Similar to sorority recruitment, fraternity recruitment was broken down into four nights or rounds. The first night, Smoker's Night—minus the cigars, gave fraternity recruits the chance to visit the four fraternities on campus and meet members. The president of each fraternity took time to introduce their house. After the first round, recruits were invited back to a house in order to attend a party there. Open House, the second round, was a relaxed night and recruits chose where to go and how long they would spend at each house for the allotted time. Brother's Night In, the next round, allowed the recruits to eat with fraternities and get to know members while hanging out on campus. In the past, fraternities have hired bands and served extravagant meals.

Brother's Night Out, the last round, was a night for recruits to relax and hang out with fraternities off campus. Fraternity Bid Day took place on Tuesday, September 20. During convocation hour, recruits gathered outside of the Howard Room to wait for their name to be called to receive their bids. Following the distribution of bids, the new members "walked out," a popular tradition on campus, with their new pledge class.

greek life





The cheers of sisterhood were heard all over the Quad during Squeal.



panhellenic

The girls who made it happen

by Lauren Kostoff

Student Government Association had their annual elections, Student Recruitment Team had their quintessential red polos, athletes had their field time, and Greeks had their letters. One group, however, may be occasionally overlooked by the student-body, but they were just as important as other leaders on campus. The ladies of Panhellenic Council served the Greek community in many ways that the average University student may not fully understand.

Panhellenic Council was made of a panel of Greek women who all chose to set their own sororities aside to serve all of the University's sororities.

"I love being able to think and make decisions on behalf of all Greek Life instead of just my personal sorority," said sophomore elementary education major and Panhellenic member Jamie Ferguson. "I also enjoy serving

on council with the girls from other houses and meeting people I have never met before."

Led by the new Director of Greek Life Denny Bubrig, Panhellenic made new and exciting changes to one of Greek Life's most important elements, recruitment. This past fall, Panhellenic introduced a brand new aspect of recruitment—open house.

"The weekend before formal recruitment, we had the girls going through recruitment attend a no cut round," said Ferguson. "This gave the girls a chance to get to know the personalities of each house without the pressure of ranking."

Panhellenic hoped to continue their tradition of leadership and success as they positively impacted campus both in and outside of Samford Greek Life.

greek life

Girls were selected in the fall to take over Panhellenic and plan for recruitment 2012.



Jennifer Nelson and Andrea Nall represented the University at the National Panhellenic Conference.



nphc

Leading the pack

by Sarah Waller

NPHC was the governing council for four of its affiliate chapters on campus, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Throughout this year, members of the council worked to create a constitution. They were also very vocal towards the end of the school year when SGA Senate



passed a resolution to restrict individual Greek chapters from requesting money. The chapters within NPHC argued that they did not have the numbers to produce the same budgets Panhellenic and IFC chapters could, saying it was not fair to restrict them from Senate funding. Though discussions about the issue continued into the summer, the council made sure their voices were heard.

ifc

Building stronger ties

by Taylor Horneman

In the spring of 2011, the University welcomed a new Director of Greek Life, Denny Bubrig, which brought about new exciting changes for the University's Interfraternity Council.

"There is a real potential for growth and development here. This council has an incredible opportunity and an even greater responsibility ahead of them," said Bubrig, expressing the thoughts he had when first entering the position.

An already earnest council in combination with a clearly experienced and visionary director resulted in a complete reorganization of the male Greek system.

The IFC was comprised of two elected members from each active fraternity chapter on campus. These delegates were the democratic representatives for each organization, all with the desire to improve interfraternal accountability and relationships. This council was led by a president and three vice presidents with specific responsibilities in the areas of administration, programming and recruitment. From their first day in office, the current members of this council had big plans for the future of male Greek life.

The first of these plans was to look at the lack of accountability between the fraternity chapters themselves, but more importantly, between the male Greek community and the University. In the past, it was the responsibility of the school administration to keep the fraternities from turning friendly competition into harassment and breaking things, both rules and physical objects. This dilemma began a combative relationship for power and self-governance between the fraternities and the school administration.



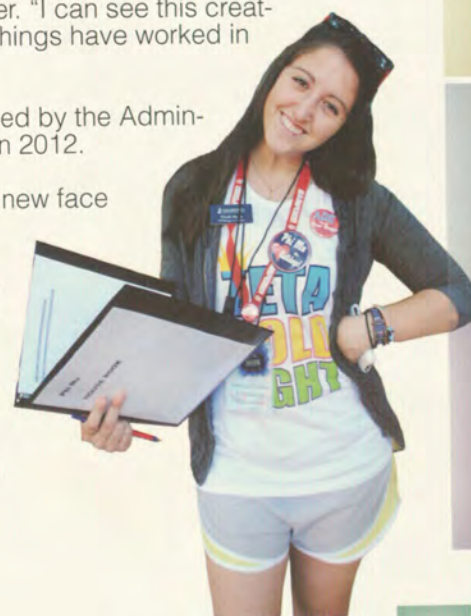
From one perspective, the male Greek community seemed to be a danger to the University's image. Some felt that giving the fraternities authority would result in absolute anarchy. Still, from the fraternities' perspective, some believed that the University had become a bit too strict and was looking for reasons to disband them.

In order to address this combative relationship, the IFC developed a judicial system in which each chapter and its members are subject to consequences given by a board of their peers.

"This accountability will hopefully be what begins to solve some of the trust issues that have plagued the fraternities and the school" said pre-business major and junior delegate for Sigma Chi Cody Butler. "I can see this creating a real change in the way things have worked in the past."

The judiciary board was passed by the Administration and went into effect in 2012.

The IFC worked to develop a new face for itself at the University, as well as provide tangible benefits to its member chapters. The council hoped that future councils would be able to work to form a solid foundation and relationship between IFC and University administration while also continuing to create positive change for the University's Greek men.



alpha delta pi

102 and going strong

by Lauren Kostoff

After more than 100 years of sisterhood, the ladies of the Kappa chapter of Alpha Delta Pi still thrived on their foundation of tradition, spirit and University involvement. Their long standing presence on campus and their enthusiastic participation added to their legacy, not just within the limits of Alpha Delta Pi, but with the University community as a whole.

2012 President Jenna Young, a junior business major, was both excited for what the next year of sisterhood would hold and reminiscent of the chapter's rich history.

"Kappa chapter has 102 years of memories here at Samford. Whether it is Step Sing, Homecoming, or parent weekend, alumni often return and reminisce on their Kappa experience. Sisters before us laid a strong foundation, and we consider it our responsibility to hold each other accountable to continuing Kappa's legacy," said Young.

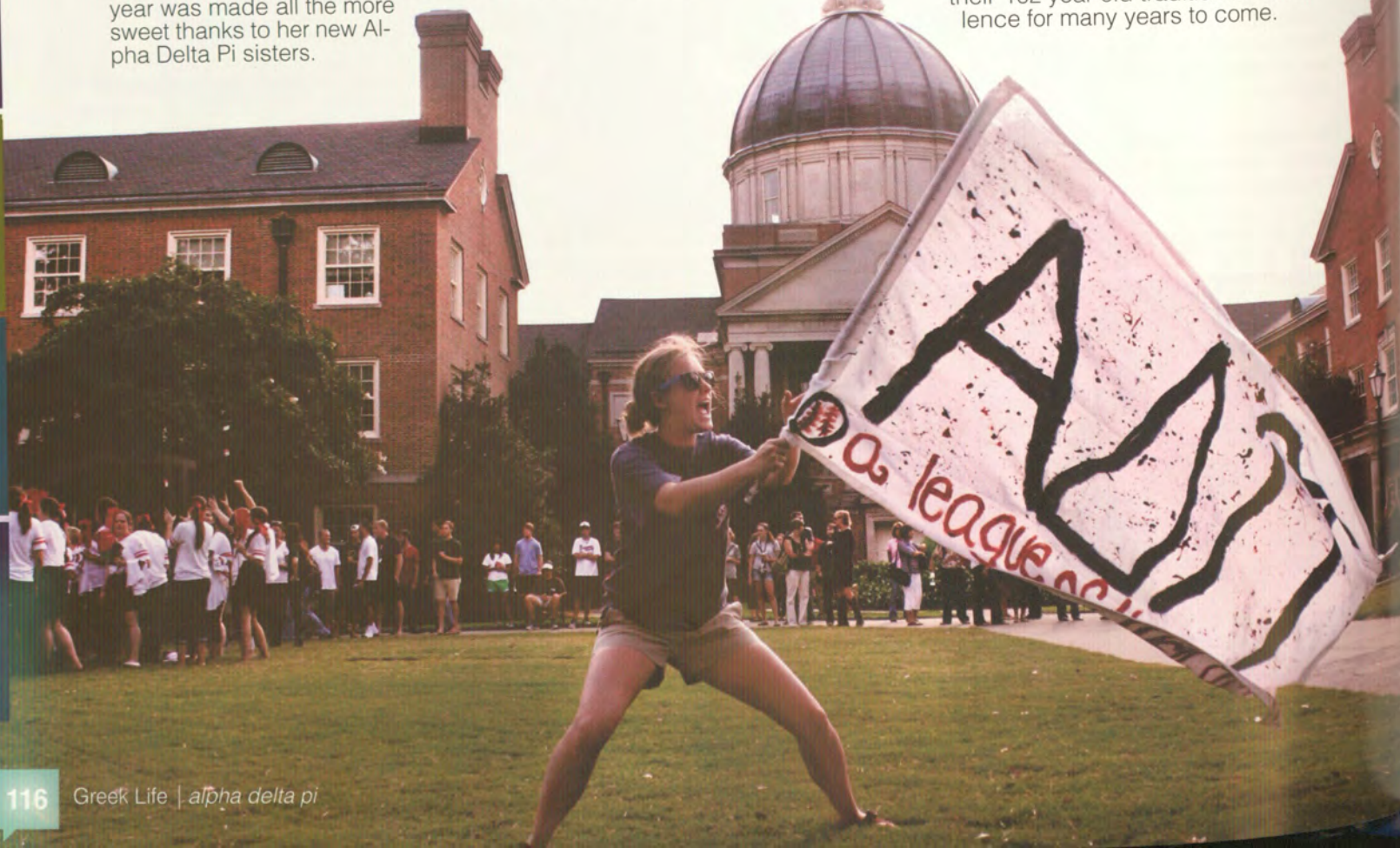
With a new year came new members for Alpha Delta Pi. New member, freshman Shea Summerlin, said her first year was made all the more sweet thanks to her new Alpha Delta Pi sisters.

"Alpha Delta Pi's motto 'We live for each other' has encouraged me not only to serve my sisters but also the Samford community, whether by serving my class through Freshman Forum or by simply folding someone's clothes in the Vail laundry room. Alpha Delta Pi has taught me to always keep in mind how I can serve others," said Summerlin.

While this year was the beginning of new seasons for both Young and Summerlin, for senior and former President Brittany Truitt, this year was a time to reflect on Alpha Delta Pi's impact on her life as well as her impact on the sorority as a whole.

"I hope that I have been able to encourage and inspire at least one sister to follow her dreams," Truitt said. "It is my wish that I have set an example of how through hard work, dedication and a positive attitude, much can be accomplished."

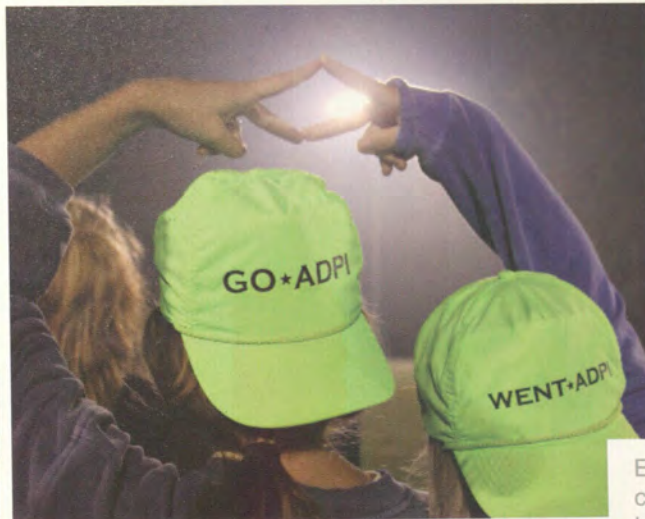
Kappa chapter hoped to continue their 102 year-old tradition of excellence for many years to come.





ADPi sisters cheered on the Bulldogs together at an University football game.

The bonds of sisterhood made friendships, like between Taylor Bandler and Callie Acuff, stronger.



Elizabeth Gettys and Rachel Gregory took a picture before Gettys was crowned Homecoming Queen.



Photos by: Katherine Thomas, Meredith McDowell, Rachel Gregory

alpha omicron pi

Bound together in sisterhood

by T.J. Moore

Alpha Omicron Pi's theme for Step Sing was titled "The End," but it was no way the end for the sisters of the Rho Delta chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi. In fact, the end was nowhere in sight for these sisters as they constantly pursued their goal and commitment to "Exceed the Expectation."

The state of mind the sisters of AOII shared was seen in their involvement in various activities on campus. "We have done a lot this year," said junior family studies major Lauren Henderson. "We participated in Relay for Life, as well as several fraternity philanthropic activities such as War of the Roses and Derby Days."

AOII made quite an impression during Pi Kappa Phi's talent show for War of the Roses. The sisters did a rendition of "The Night before Christmas" that won them second place for the talent show.

Events like War of the Roses, Step Sing, Derby Days and Greek Week brought about a competitive side in the girls of AOII and also strengthened their bonds with one another. Carly Morris, a junior English major, also enjoyed participating in War of the Roses. "It is fun

to come together as sisters through competition," she said. Like their symbol of the sheaf, AOIIs realized the stability and tenacity they have when they are "bound" together.

The sisters of AOII did not come together solely for competitions. The girls also loved coming together to have fun. "Formals and semi-formals are my favorite," said Henderson. "You get to see the different personalities come out in what girls decide to dress up in for the events."

With mixers, date parties and a "Paint the Town Red" themed semi-formal, the year was full of social events, and there were fun activities already in the works for the fall semester.

It was clear that the Rho Delta chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi was full of fun-loving girls who enjoyed their time not just in fellowship with other organizations on campus, but also in the company of those who made up this unique sisterhood. "I love AOII because of the best friends I have made," said Morris. "I have made lifelong friends."



Members showed their "panda love" while out at dinner.



Karena MacDonald and Amber Lockwood took to the field with their fellow sisters



Sisters took pictures before their semi-formal themed, "Paint the Town Red."





greek life

For these members, Alpha Kappa Alpha provided them with friends that will last a lifetime.



Members worked to raise awareness of their philanthropy during Hope Week.



Members hosted a dance event on the Quad, open to the entire student body.

alpha Kappa alpha

a service to all mankind

by Amy Vu

On January 15, 1908, Alpha Kappa Alpha became the first Greek-letter organization for African American women. For the past 104 years, the sorority has continued to uphold the values of sisterhood, scholarship and supreme community service.

Since its chartering on May 14, 1988, the Omicron Mu chapter at the University tried to preserve the heritage that Alpha Kappa Alpha was founded upon. Omicron Mu was exceptionally involved in implementing service through some of their signature programs, such as Pink Pajama Pillow Talk, Pink Goes Red for a Day, Trick-or-Treat for a Healthy Body and Pamper Me Pretty for Entrepreneurship.

The sorority's philanthropy was sickle cell disease. However, throughout the year the ladies of the Omicron Mu chapter were also involved in several initiatives involving global issues such as security, emerging young leaders, global poverty, social justice and human rights, health and asthma prevention and management, and leadership.

Being a minority group on campus was often a challenge, but the ladies of Omicron Mu managed to raise their presence on campus, especially within the past couple of years. The members of Omicron Mu were in-

creasingly committed not only on campus, but also in the community in order to serve out their motto of providing "a service to all mankind."

"We have raised our visibility this year through events on and off campus. In the future, we hope to continue making Samford proud of Omicron Mu and being an asset to our community," vice president and senior political science major Hiliare Armstrong said.

"Alpha Kappa Alpha is just more than a sisterhood. It is a bond that you make for your lifetime and cherish forever. Being a part of Omicron Mu has been wonderful experience," secretary and senior family studies major Kelsey Givner said. "As a chapter we have had the opportunity to impact lives through community service such as working with the Jimmie Hale Mission, First Light, Jesse's Place, Habitat for Humanity and Operation Project Homeless."

Givner said they believed in encouraging and serving the community and also forming lasting relationships with sorority sisters, and she said the sorority has been able to bless the community.

"We have been able to perform more community service projects, we have increased in chapter members, and day by day we are becoming more visible on Samford's campus."





chi omega

Continuing a legacy of sisterhood

by Lauren Cole

The group of women enrolled in the Zeta-Zeta chapter of Chi Omega were overjoyed with long-standing traditions as well as embracing new additions to the chapter's service opportunities this year.

Chi Omega was given the opportunity to serve on a local level and national level. Chi Omega's local philanthropy was The Big Oak Girls Ranch, which was located about 45 minutes away from campus. The ranch was simply a place where young girls could go and be loved by those who came to serve around the Birmingham area. These children come from various different backgrounds but were all looking for a sense of comfort, peace and love. The Big Oak Girls Ranch gave members of Chi Omega a chance to go to the ranch and develop relationships with the girls through beading bracelets, baking cookies and tie dying t-shirts. Developing a relationship with these girls gave the chapter an opportunity to share with them the love of Christ.

The national philanthropy that Chi Omega served was the Make A Wish Foundation. Through this organization, Chi Omega raised money to help grant many wishes. The Chi Omega sorority held many events on campus such as Chi O Karaoke and selling coupons for restaurants around the area to raise money for this national philanthropy.

This year, Chi Omega adopted a new local service opportunity, the YWCA. "This organization empowers women and children," said Clair Buchanan, a junior psychology major and this year's philanthropy chair. "I feel that our sorority will really be able to invest in the lives of people right here in our local community through serving them on a consistent basis." The chapter as a whole was extremely excited for this new opportunity

to serve locally, and was ready to continue this philanthropy in the years to come.

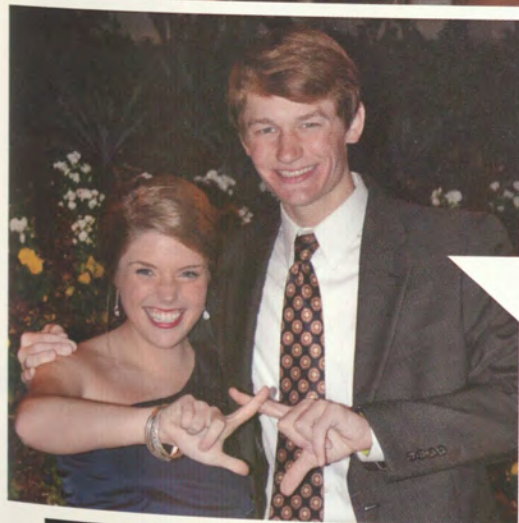
Seniors in Chi Omega filled the leadership roles needed to continue this legacy of outstanding women and prepared those under them with the necessary tools to excel in the future.

Tori Bragg, a senior journalism and political science major, served as this year's Chi Omega president. "In the future, I would hope that Chi Omega would continue to foster a community of growth and genuine encouragement," said Bragg. "Each new pledge class continues a legacy of sisterhood that will shape and grow members for a lifetime."





Under the Chi Omega tent, sisters enjoyed a tailgate with friends before heading to the football game.



Jane Alice Moore took her date, Jake Hamilton to Chi O's semi-formal.



Courtney Price, Jaime Richter and Anna Boyd spent the weekend in the city.



The chapter room came to life as new sisters discovered who their bigs were.

delta

sigma theta

Service and sisterhood

by Amy Vu

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded on January 13, 1913 by 22 dynamic women on the campus of Howard University. On March 18, 1995, eleven women chartered the Sigma Eta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta on the University's campus.

As of spring 2012, the chapter consisted of six girls: senior history major Jenae' Steele, senior business management major Britney Taylor, junior history major Shantel Waters, junior journalism and mass communication major Chenelle Terry, nursing major Yaleshia Taylor and pharmacy major Paige Pettaway. Their events were approved under advisor and chemistry professor Dr. Denise Gregory.

In March, the Sigma Eta chapter celebrated 99 years of service with a founder's day and scholarship luncheon. The chapter also raised money for one of the two minority scholarships offered annually at the University, the Tiffany N. Conaway Scholarship. This scholarship was open to any minority student through an online application.

With financial support from the Student Government Association and tremendous support from surrounding chapters, these six ladies were able to bring the national second vice president of Delta Sigma Theta, Chelsea C. Hayes, to be the keynote speaker for their founder's day and scholarship luncheon.

Sigma Eta sister and senior history major Jenae' Steele greatly enjoyed her time with the sorority.

"I felt that the (luncheon) brought the chapter and advisor even closer together because of how dependent we were on one another. We had outstanding support from the University," said Steele. "Dr. Creed, Samford's provost and executive vice president of the University, was there with his wife, and Dr. Michael Morgan and Garry Atkins were also present."

Delta Sigma Theta also celebrated Black History Month by inviting Bishop Calvin Woods to come speak. As for service, the sorority participated in Samford Gives Back and in an event they called the "Go Red for Women Campaign."

"We partnered with the school of nursing, St. Vincent's Hospital, and the Samford cafeteria. We wanted to raise awareness about the number one killer of women, which happens to be heart disease," said Steele. "We encouraged the campus to go red, offered free health screenings and served heart healthy foods. It was a great event and I feel like awareness was really brought to the Samford community."

Clearly, this small group of ladies was united under both service and sisterhood. The chapter hoped to continue growing on campus and to raise more awareness for important causes.

greek life





Jenae Steele and Chenelle Terry threw up their group's sign for a picture.



The organization brought in alumni to speak about their experiences in the sorority.



Members posed for a picture during their founder's day celebrations.



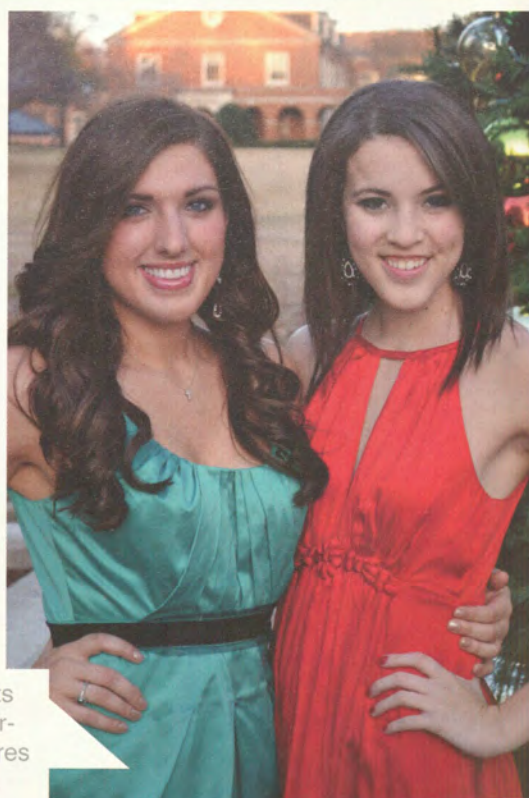
HARRY'S
The name Harry's was chosen by Sanford students to honor the hero of the notorious Howard College fire of October 15, 1854. Harry, a slave owned by college President Henry Talbird, lost his life while saving students and faculty who were sleeping in the college's four-story brick building. Though he was a slave, he responded to the call to wake the boys.



Katelyn Hammond and Frances Isbelle showed their support at the Phi Mu carwash in the Spring.



Mary Elizabeth Butts and Caroline Patterson posed for pictures before semi-formal.



Sisters took to the Quad to celebrate their newest members on Bid Day.



phi mu

To practice day by day love, honor, truth

by Reed Richardson

If you asked any Phi Mu what her favorite recollection from the year was, she would not be able to narrow it down to one single memory.

Junior nursing major Kathryn Nelson asked, "How do you take a school year's worth of events, laughter and good times and pick your favorite? I have loved the whole experience!"

As a result of the 2011 Recruitment process, 47 new girls were welcomed to join in on the cherished Phi Mu sisterhood experience.

"We had a really great turnout from rush, getting girls that have fit perfectly with our chapter," said Recruitment director for the 2011 year and junior languages and world trade major Caitlin Morris. "We were so blessed to receive members who have been enthusiastically involved since day one."

Phi Mu kicked off the fall semester with a carnival-themed pledge bash held at Railroad Park. The night was complete with inflatables, games and cotton candy galore.

"We've never had a social quite like that," said Nelson. It was super fun to goof off and play carnival games with your date and all your sisters."

Phi Mu sisters later got all dolled up for a "Christmas in Tuscany" semi-formal at Gabrella Manor, and then in the spring the sorority hosted a fun-filled "Southern and Proper" formal at B&A Warehouse.

"Our events are just always a blast," said Nelson.

"You could say we know how to bust a move or two."

Phi Mu not only had fun at their socials, but also incorporated fun into their regular philanthropic involvement with Children's Miracle Network Hospital. The first half of the school year included an annual 5K Run, a letter writing campaign and "Trick-or-Treating for Pocket Change" at Halloween.

"I loved the trick-or-treating event because it was the perfect opportunity to get to know the older girls better while raising money for a great cause," said sophomore math major Gretchen Sevin.

In the spring semester, Phi Mu held a car wash, a fundraising competition with Sigma Chi at California Pizza Kitchen and a trip to the tracks at Talladega Superspeedway with Sigma Nu, from which a portion of ticket proceeds went to CMNH.

There's just this constant sense of community and encouragement, even when it's late and you should probably be doing homework.

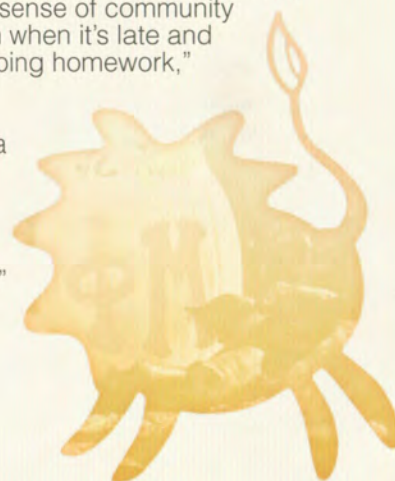
Caitlin Morris

Probably the longest awaited event was Step Sing, a Phi Mu favorite campus tradition. The ladies presented their show, "Into the Woods," following Hansel and Gretel as they escaped to the woods and worked their way through fairytale after fairytale on their journey home.

Despite the success of the year's events, it cannot quite sum up what it meant to be a part of this sisterhood.

"There's just this constant sense of community and encouragement, even when it's late and you should probably be doing homework," said Morris.

Senior English major Olivia Pollard said she will never forget the four years she invested into Phi Mu. "I would totally do this experience all over again," she said. "It was incredible. It is incredible."



zeta

Tau Alpha

A Sisterhood of Love & Service

by Allison Cobb

greek life

The sisterhood of Zeta Tau Alpha was founded on love and service. Members served the University and the Birmingham community, on and off campus, in a variety of ways. Zetas played an active role on campus, participating in organizations such as Student Government Association, University Ministries and social justice groups, as well as numerous clubs and honor societies. Zeta's president, junior early childhood education major Paizley Coffey, said the sorority opened up many doors for her.

"I have gained skills in leadership, communication and organization," said Coffey. "Without Zeta, my Samford experience would not be the same because of meaningful friendships and life lessons I have gained from my membership."

Zetas also enjoyed participating in University events as a chapter. Throughout the year, Zeta participated in numerous campus activities, including Homecoming and Step Sing. Zeta's "Stomp the Yard" skeleton theme earned them participants' choice awards in costume and choreography and second runner-up overall. With the University's new tailgating experience, Zeta had the opportunity to show their bulldog spirit. For Saturday

Tailgates, members gathered on the Quad to cook-out, play games and socialize. Zeta offered members opportunities to get involved in athletics through its intramural teams in every sport.

Also, Zeta supported its national philanthropy, breast cancer research and education, by hosting service events and fundraisers on campus. Mr. Samford, Zeta's annual spring fundraiser, was an all-male beauty pageant featuring University students. Participants competed in a variety of categories including talent, evening wear and an interview question.

Every semester, members created "Think Pink baskets" full of lotions, books and other gifts, which were given to women who have been diagnosed with Breast Cancer or were currently receiving treatment. Through these baskets, Zeta members gained a personal experience working with the philanthropy. Senior psychology major Liz Rogers said Zeta impacted her throughout her four years at the University.

"I enjoy Zeta because it's helped me to grow from freshman year to senior year without restricting me," said Rogers. "My friends are always there to support and encourage me."

Whether on the intramural field playing soccer or in the Wright Center performing in Step Sing, the enthusiasm and love members of Zeta Tau Alpha possessed was undeniable.

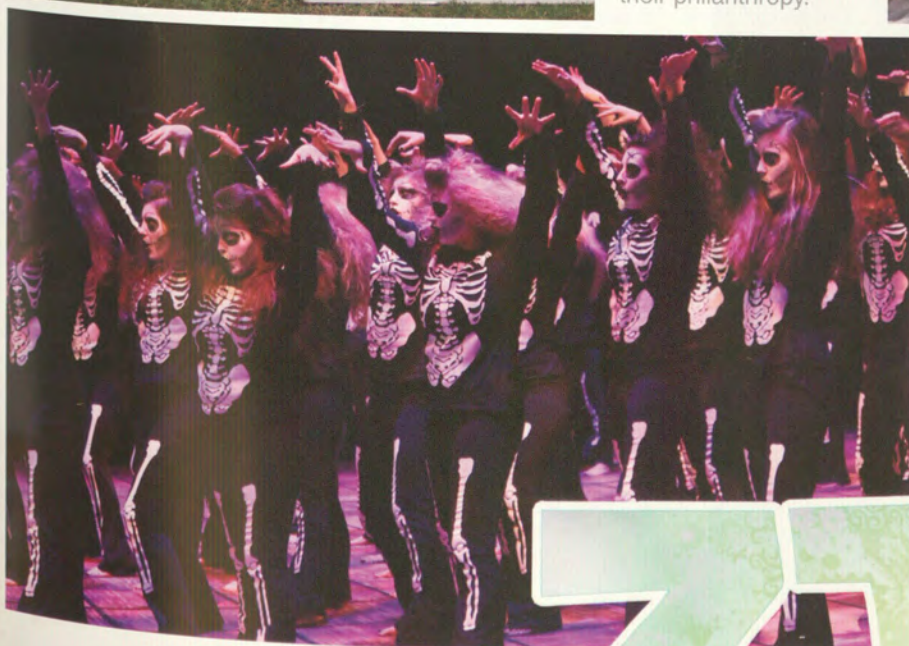




Kelly Ray and Meredith Edney took a picture before the start of the Homecoming parade.



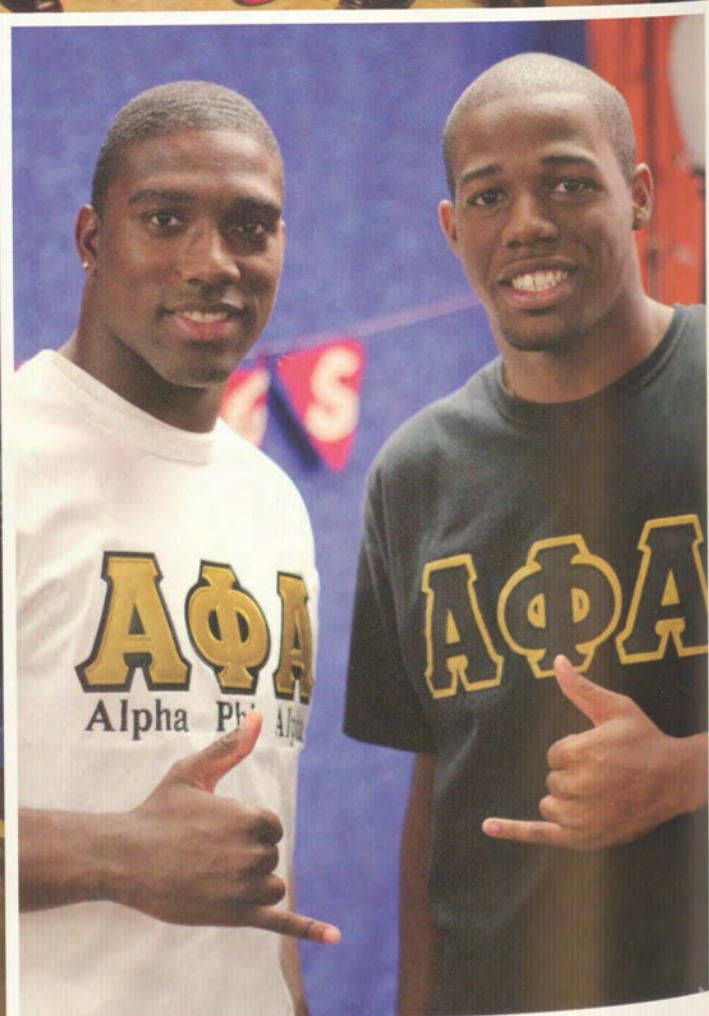
At a "think pink" themed baseball game, members worked to bring awareness to their philanthropy.



ZTA



greek life



alpha phi alpha

Alphas leading the way

by T.J. Moore

Like the founders before them who saw a need for a brotherhood focused on manly deeds, scholarship and love for all mankind, the brothers of the Tau Iota Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. ardently worked this year to see that need be met. Whether it was by participating in voter registration drives held on campus, being the chapter with the highest GPA this past fall or working for Habitat for Humanity, members of Alpha Phi Alpha certainly made their presence known.

What could be enforcing such displayed fervor? "This was our first full year on campus after a hiatus of over ten years," said Jason Malone, a junior history major, who serves both as the chaplain and the co-step master (one who came up with steps for performances). "We wanted to introduce ourselves to the campus and share the mission of Alpha Phi Alpha."

On April 12, 2001, five young men helped start the charter for the Tau Iota Chapter, but the chapter was inactive for a period of ten years until the Tau Iota Chapter made its return to the University on May 5, 2011.

Since the spring of 2011, there was no denying who the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha were or what they stood

for as each member personified their fraternity's motto: "First of All, Servants of All, We Shall Transcend All."

"For me, this symbolizes how Alpha Phi Alpha should be the first to identify problems in society and then serving the community in a way to eradicate the problem while helping others to improve," said Malone.

Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha were involved in various activities to help with the community.

"One of my favorite activities that we have done this year has to have been our Step Show that we held in collaboration with Sigma Chi for our philanthropy," said sophomore religion major Cameron Thomas, vice president of Alpha Phi Alpha. In the show, there was a unity step that included two members from each chapter on campus.

The chapter also worked towards one of their fraternity's national programs, "Go to High School, Go to College", where the University held a tour for high school students

The brotherhood of Alpha Phi Alpha was all about community and service.



kappa

alpha psi

100 Years of Achievement

by Logan Heim

The brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi celebrated a significant milestone this year.

Founded on the campus of Indiana University on January 5, 1911, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. celebrated its centennial this year, marking 100 years since the founding of the fraternity. To celebrate the founding, thousands of Kappa men from around the world gathered in Bloomington, Ind. to celebrate and honor the fraternity's growth, accomplishments and achievements.

In addition to celebration, this year the fraternity as a whole raised one million dollars in college scholarships for the young men who participate in the fraternity's Kappa Leadership Development League.

"Kappa League is a program that concentrates on mentoring young men while they are in high school and preparing them so that they may achieve in their college endeavors, and be leaders amongst their peers in the community," Kappa Member and junior administrative major Martin Collins Jr. said.

The fundamental purpose of Kappa Alpha Psi was achievement. Some notable Kappa members included civil rights leader Reverend Ralph Abernathy, who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King and was known as Dr. King's right hand man, attorney Jonnie Cochran, NBA star Wilt Chamberlain and tennis player Arthur Ashe. The current Mayor of the city of Birmingham Mayor William Bell was also a Kappa.

Kappa Alpha Psi membership spread across the globe with chapters in Germany, Japan, Korea, the United Kingdom, Bahamas, Bermuda, South Africa and the Virgin Islands. Kappa men were also known and affectionately referred to as "The Nupes" or simply "Nupes."

The University's chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Omicron Alpha, was founded in 1998. The chapter did not take their fraternity's call for achievement lightly.

"It fuels our success," said Collins. "Omicron Alpha has produced many successful men from doctors to servicemen and lawyers to preachers. We have a wide range of success, and we hold achievement dear to our heart."

Alumni played a huge role in the organization, joining them here for a University tailgate.





Brothers enjoyed the tailgating before the football games in the fall.

The men of Omicron Alpha participated in a variety of service and philanthropic activities this year. The fraternity's main philanthropy was the Kappa Alpha Psi foundation, which provides funding for scholarships as well as the fraternity's national service program "Guide Right." The foundation also raised funds for Habitat for Humanity.

Kappa Alpha Psi was the first men's African-American Greek organization formed on the University's campus, and its members take great pride in this accomplishment.

"Being a 'Nupe' has directly influenced my experience at Samford by reminding me and motivating me to not only reach for the bar but to achieve the goal of setting the standard," said Collins. "I hold my fraternities heritage close to my heart, and I hold Samford's motto of" 'For God, For Learning, Forever' close to my heart as well."

The fraternity took great strides to work with other University organizations including Student Government Association, Black Student Union and all of the other Greek organizations on campus. The men hoped that these efforts would improve the University's overall scholastic experience and sense of community.





With tailgating moved to the Quad, brothers enjoyed the time with friends before the football game.



Brothers took pictures with their dates before their formal in the spring.





pi kappa phi

Southern gents bonded by brotherhood

by Sarah Waller

You saw them waiting by the West Gate, rolling through Ben Brown and asking for donations at the Homecoming tailgate. To raise money for their fraternity's philanthropy, Push America, the brothers of Phi Kappa Phi hosted its annual Push-a-thon, where brothers went out in group of two, one in the wheelchair and one pushing it, for 72 hours straight.

Corey Jackson, a junior psychology major and the chapter's president, said the experience taught him and his brothers more about the people their philanthropy supports. "Through this, they are able to raise awareness for people with disabilities, as well as show how difficult it is for people in wheelchairs to travel across campus," he said.

In addition to the Push-a-thon, the brothers hosted the second War of the Roses tournament, establishing it as an annual event. With the participation of eight woman organizations, the chapter raised more than \$5,000. Along with a flag football tournament, talent show and date auction, they hosted an empathy dinner in the Caf, teaching others about the charity and giving people the chance to experience life with a disability. As they

walked into the Caf that night, they were assigned a disability, ranging from wearing a blindfold to taping their figures together.

Along with these events, brothers participated in service opportunities throughout the year, volunteering at the United Cerebral Palsy Association and The Dream Center, tutoring at Southtown and participating in Relay for Life.

They also reached out to alumni by hosting their second alumni golf tournament, where past and current fraternity members came together for a great day on the fairway.

But the fraternity was more than just events and fundraisers. Jackson said being a member impacted him in more ways than he ever imagined. "Pi Kapp has truly impacted my Samford experience," he said. "This brotherhood has helped me mature and has strengthened my faith, leadership and character. I am blessed to have the privilege to be a part of this brotherhood," he said. "When I graduate and start my career, I will look to my experience in Pi Kapp as a framework for my future."



sigma *Hit the ground running* chi

by Virginia Harris

For the brothers of Sigma Chi, the academic year was one of growth within their chapter and as an organization on campus.

The brothers sponsored various events from Derby Days, to the first annual Charity Bowl football game, to formal at the Historic Hermitage Hotel in Nashville, Tenn. The fraternity also had a strong recruitment during the fall semester and initiated 20 members in March. Holmes Hill, a junior accounting major, served as president of the fraternity.

"This school year has been one of incredible strides in both growth and progress. Most notably we have managed to bring back the Derby Days tradition to Samford's campus, in which funds were raised for the Children's Miracle Network. On April 20, our brotherhood organized a Charity Bowl versus Pi Kappa Phi that raised funds for Restoration Academy," said Hill.

Having been on probation for a year, the brothers were excited to kickstart their social calendar during the spring semester. "We have almost doubled the amount of social events this school year. The highlight of the spring was definitely our Formal at the historic Hermitage Hotel in Nashville, Tenn. We have also hosted many other social events, including our Pancake Breakfast with the campus sororities and the Atlanta Braves date party," said Hill.

But for Hill and Sigma Chi's vice president, Goodson McLemore, a junior biology major, the community and opportunities provided by the fraternity have been the most important part of their time in the fraternity. "My favorite part of Sigma Chi is the community that the organization affords me. While Samford provides its students with various outlets in campus involvement, Sigma Chi has enriched my Samford experience with deep friendships, true accountability, and my most fun memories from college," said Hill.

McLemore praised the fraternity's leadership opportunities. "Sigma Chi has given me an opportunity to grow and mature as a leader. I have learned countless life skills through my time here that I could not have learned anywhere else," he said. "As a Sigma Chi, I have been held to a higher standard and challenged to uphold the principles of our fraternity."

Both men have been members of the fraternity since their freshman year and admired the foundations of the fraternity. "Our goal is to further develop the character and integrity of the men in our organization," said Hill. "Through the preservation of the ideals we were founded upon, the men of my fraternity strive to be active students on Samford's campus."

"This is a very exciting time in our chapter's history," said McLemore, "and I am so proud to be a Sigma Chi."







Lone Wolf Trail
256-784-553

greek life

sigma nu

Focusing on growth and community

by Virginia Harris

In the fall, the University's Iota chapter of Sigma Nu initiated 13 new members, and during their spring recruitment recruited eight pledges. The chapter also held their annual letter writing campaign for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, the fraternity's national philanthropy, and brothers even participated in a local radio call-a-thon to help fundraise for the hospital.

Bo Ackerson, a junior entrepreneurship major, served as the chapter's commander, otherwise known as the president.

"Right now we're trying to increase our numbers. That's kind of been an ongoing thing," said Ackerson. "We're looking for variety. We really want to see leaders and more leadership in campus involvement."

Ackerson said that brothers were involved in organizations such as Campus Outreach, with many attending its annual Summer Beach Project and New Year's Conference. Other members also served as officers on the University's Inter-Fraternity Council and were members of the College Republicans.

Improving alumni relations also became a focus.

"We've also been working a lot on our alumni relations development," said Ackerson. "That's another kind of a weakness for us in the past, but we've really been blessed to have a few guys come back and reach out to us."

Senior exercise science major Danny Price said that despite setbacks faced by the chapter in the form of sanctions from the University after what he terms "the infamous Christmas decorations fiasco," the chapter grew and exceeded expectations.

"Our chapter has met and exceeded any goal that we could have set going into 2011. In our yearly review by the National Fraternity Headquarters, we saw tremendous improvement in every area, even achieving top rating in several of the categories," said Price. "Furthermore, we were recognized at the Greek Awards for outstanding service and philanthropy as well as winning the All-Sports trophy again."

Internal operations of Sigma Nu improved greatly because the chapter was faced with overcoming sanctions imposed by the University.

"Those served to bring us together as a fraternity and to help us reach a new level of our potential," Price said.

Ackerson and Price both expressed their excitement for the upcoming year and the new leadership within the chapter.

"The chapter leaders that we now have in place are, without a doubt, men that will carry on the rich tradition of the Iota chapter of Sigma Nu," said Price of the new executive council. "I think that the team dynamic of the new Executive Council is as strong as I have seen in my time with Sigma Nu, and I strongly believe that they will lead the fraternity to new heights."

Sigma Nu was more than an organization; it was a brotherhood.



You could always find a group of Sigma Nu standing on the front row at football games.





In the moment you closed your eyes, lifted up your hands and began to sing, you declared your faith to the world. It was in these moments, whether quietly praying on your way to class or preaching loudly in front of your peers that you spoke volumes. People were at different stages in their lives and in their faith journeys, but together, as we stood and declared Christ as Lord, we showed the overwhelming power of community. No matter which worship service you attended or which ministry you were involved in, together we were all united as a body of believers, as brothers and sisters in Christ.

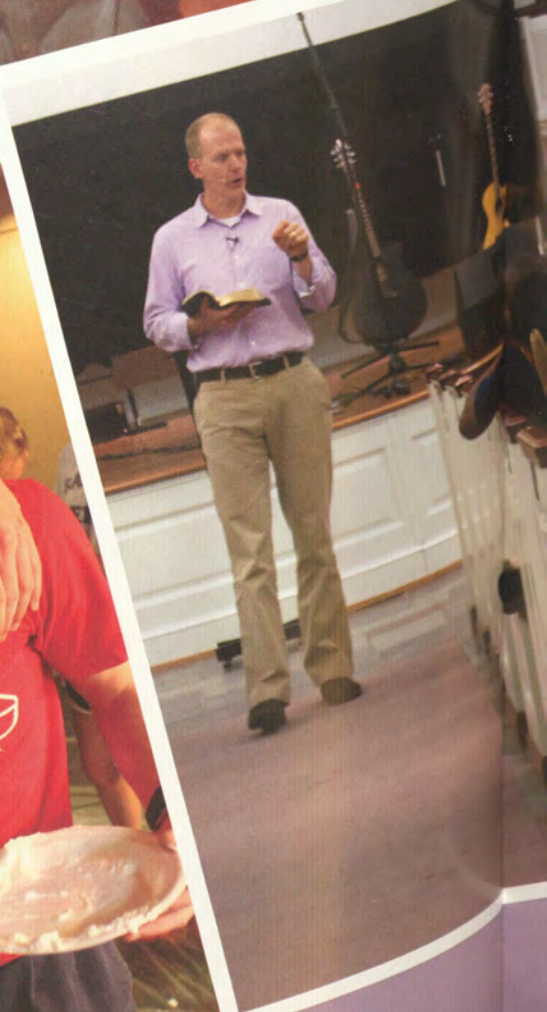
Love Immeasurable

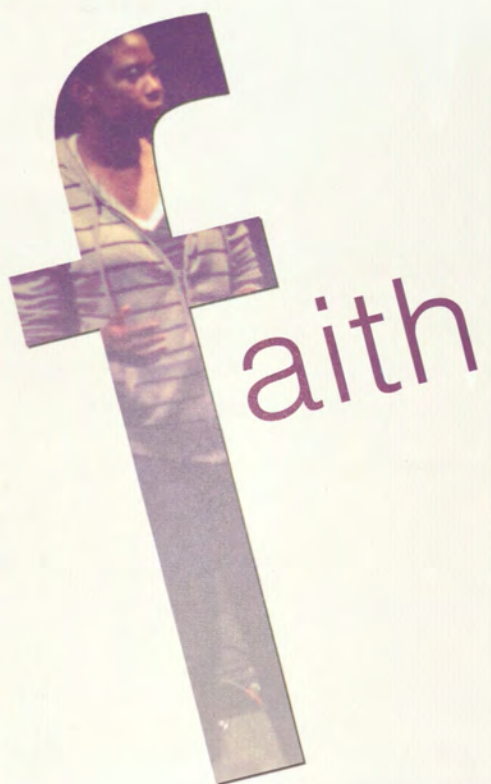
Love immeasurable, love divine
Love unlocked this prison mine
Love who paid for all my crime
Wrap my heart in thine

faith had built a life on shifting sand
Founding down the brink, you grabbed
Unaware was I my tragic state
Rescued how could I but celebrate

Love immeasurable, love divine
Love unlocked this prison mine
Love who paid for all my crime
Wrap my heart in thine

Drowning in a well of dark despair
Dropped a rope and dragged me up for air
Purged my lungs of liquid, given voice
Bid this twisted tongue of mine





faith

declare
your faith



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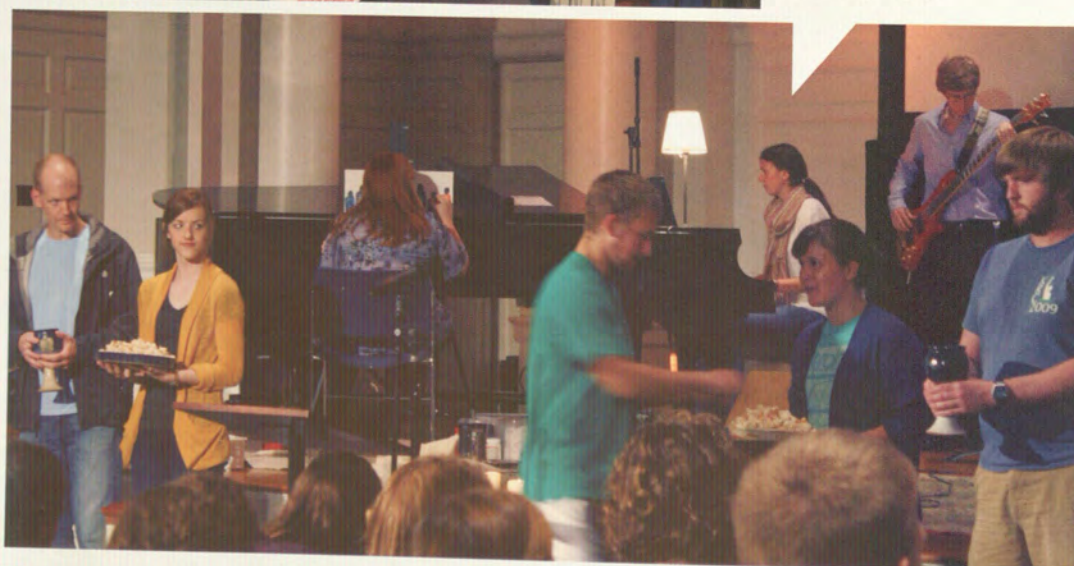
Each week, those who attended Shiloh broke bread together as they took part in the sacred act of communion. Students baked the bread fresh.



Saviour I come quiet my soul
Remember redemption's hill
Where Your blood was spilled
For my ransom



Through music, arts, spoken word and prayer, Shiloh provided multiples facets for students to worship God each Tuesday night.



shiloh

Worshipping through art, song and prayer

by Caroline Payne

“You won’t relent, until You have it all, my heart is Yours.” The pure words of worship rang in Reid Chapel on a typical Tuesday evening at Shiloh. Hands were lifted high and eyes were closed tight as students of every kind sang, prayed and learned about Christ together through a simple and innovative worship experience.

“I was first introduced to Shiloh through my RA freshman year,” said senior elementary education major Sarah Anne Edwards, a Shiloh artist. “I only went a few times my first year, but I absolutely fell in love with Shiloh my sophomore year. Everything just felt right.”

On most nights, attendees gathered on the Quad in front of Reid Chapel to fellowship and share in Common Meal. After filing in, students visited with one another before the service began.

In addition to Common Meal, another special element of Shiloh was the featured artist who painted an inspired piece onstage throughout the services.

“My sophomore year I knew the girl who led worship and asked her one day if they needed anyone to paint that semester,” said senior secondary education English and language arts major Jordyn Elrod. “It turns out they did, and I’ve been asked to paint at least once a semester ever since.”

“Last semester, I painted a piece entitled ‘The Lord Reigns,’” said Elrod. “Since that week was a celebration of going global and raising awareness about mission opportunities all over the world, I wanted my painting to reflect the Psalm that was focused on in Shiloh, which

was Psalm 96. It says, ‘Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all peoples! ... Say among the nations, ‘The Lord Reigns!’” I wanted my painting to reflect this idea of globally united praise.”

One main draw for students is the unique and powerful worship experience created through music. Student musicians and singers led worship with favorite songs such as “You Won’t Relent,” “Revelation Song” and “By Our Love.”

“This year I think we are starting to see a group of people coming together from all areas of campus rather than one particular group of people,” said Worship Coordinator for University Ministries and Shiloh singer Lauren Barry, a junior psychology major. “This community is made up of all types of people involved with all different kinds of things at Samford. It’s been a blessing to see this group of people expand in terms of acceptance to all.”

University Minister Matthew Kerlin and other ministers taught weekly lessons that challenged students to take what they learned in Shiloh and apply it in their lives.

Toward the end of the service, students came forward to partake in communion and end with a Prayer for the Nations.

“The communities of people that are in University Ministries and attend Shiloh are so inviting,” said freshman church music major and worship team violinist Jules Huff. “Worshipping God every Tuesday at Shiloh has been one of my favorite things about this year.”

University ministries

Engaging heart, mind and soul

by Madi Dominescy

According to their mission statement, University Ministries “strives to engage heart, mind, soul and strength in the pursuit of knowing God and making him known.” UM also provided a community for many students. “I think UM is a great place to build community, and the people in UM become a family away from home,” said sophomore elementary education major Kaitlyn Teem.

Shiloh was one of the key elements of UM. Every Tuesday night at seven, many gathered for a time of worship. The Shiloh worship experience included an artist every week that creates a work of art during the service. This was a way of worshipping in addition to the music and the message that were given. Communion was also offered every week at Shiloh, which was another wonderful facet of the community that was built there.

“I like how you can come in and see so many people you know. It offers you a chance to relieve the stress of school through friendship and a personal experience with God,” said sophomore English major Annie Kraus. “By the end of Shiloh, you can really feel the power of God and how he can give you peace in every time of life—even finals.”

From FreshMIN Retreat at the beginning of fall semester to the Breathe Retreat at the beginning of the spring semester, to small groups, to Step Sing, to weekly Reel Justice meetings, UM offered countless opportunities to build friendships with others and continue to strengthen relationships with God.

UM also emphasized the importance of community involvement through its outreach programs in East Lake and College Hills. The programs involved volunteering at Farmer’s Markets, tutoring and community dinners. These goals also extended world-wide. Global Christian Fellowship also met weekly in order to help students to get involved with missions on a global scale.

“I came to Samford because there are so many mission opportunities. Thanks to Global Christian Fellowship, a division of UM, money from the Journey fund (money received from the art auction and other events over the year) aided me in going to India for mission work this past summer and connected me with others who are like minded and possess a passion for global missions,” said Teem.

UM played an important role in the University community and impacted many students.

faith



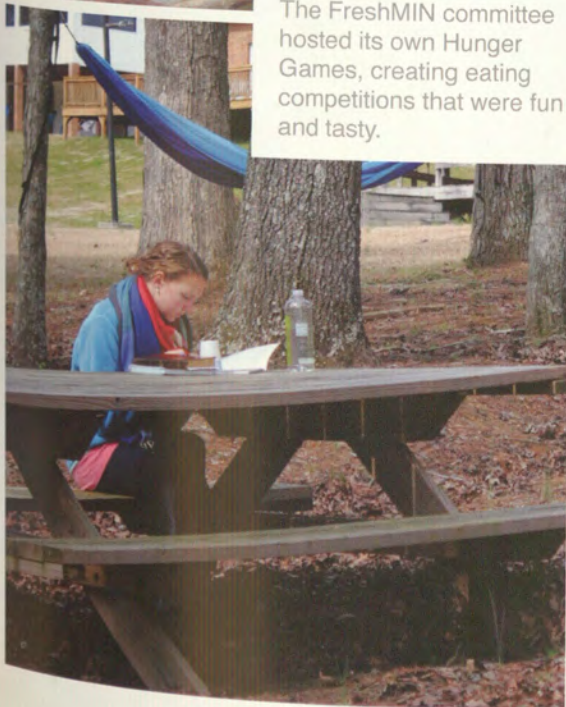
Ninjas was the theme of University Ministries' Step Sing show, one of the two co-ed shows.



At the FreshMIN retreat in the fall, attendees spent Saturday afternoon enjoying the lake and making new friends.



The FreshMIN committee hosted its own Hunger Games, creating eating competitions that were fun and tasty.





Junior Chase Carroll was one of many that were moved by the RUF worship service.

RUF reached out beyond a simple worship service to establish a strong community of believers on campus



faith



reformed

United Fellowship

Overwhelmed with the Spirit

by Laura Beth Allen

On Monday nights, voices resounded with humble brokenness and adoration for God, and people across the Quad heard echoes from Reid Chapel, where members of Reformed United Fellowship gathered. RUF offered a place of community where students could find a stable and committed group to rely on.

"The greatest part of RUF is the gospel centered community. There is nothing better than fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who are drawn together by the gospel," said active member and sophomore pre-business major Josiah Helms. "RUF has given me a foundation on which to build relationships with like-minded peers who are striving for the glory of God through everything we do. We are not perfect, but we are seeking after the One who is."

RUF was a catalyst for faith to grow, transform and impact students. It was a place where love trumped popularity, beauty, relationship status, academic success and all of the other pressures that seem to almost suffocate college students. Out of RUF grew compassion and friendship, which was evident by the groups of faithful RUF attendees that cluster together in the chaos of the cafeteria in order to have a few moments of fellowship.

"I'm so thankful that RUF loved and accepted me into their family freshman year when I felt alone, and from it I have seen the power community has in sharing the gospel," said sophomore communication studies major Rachel Worsham. "As I have gotten to know international students, it has been a blessing to have a loving group of believers to bring them into."

With the influx of about thirty Asian students this semester, Worsham has seized the opportunity to be a true sister in Christ to them. Worsham spent her spare time with these students, carrying a desperate hope for them to know and see the Gospel, for them to catch a glimpse of eternity and what glorious redemption awaits them there. These are the kinds of transformations that RUF helped to facilitate.

While social events including activities such as Frisbee Fridays, the dating game, fall conference and summer retreat may be fun things to fill in on the calendar, RUF was more than just a social group. It was a family that not only wanted to intentionally build relationships with each other, but also to spread the concept of community and the power of Christ's love to those searching for a place to belong.

Due to its growth, RUF had to move its Monday services to Reid Chapel to accommodate for the larger crowds, as it continued to gain new members.

campus outreach

Seek the lost and share the light

by Rebekah Robinson

Campus Outreach, an interdenominational campus ministry, was founded on campus in 1978 under Briarwood Presbyterian Church. More than thirty years later, the ministry was still strong and serving on campus, existing to "build Christ-like laborers on the campus for the lost world for the glory of God."

The ministry, led by Campus Director Ryan Akers, sought to reach unbelievers on campus, as well as develop mature believers so that they will be equipped to share the gospel now and after they graduate. The ministry met on Wednesday nights in Harry's Coffee-house for a time of worship and study.

Many students spent part of their Christmas break in Chattanooga, Tenn. at Campus Outreach National Conference. It was an opportunity for students all over the country to come together for five days of rallies, seminars and fellowship.

Some students involved with the ministry spend ten weeks during the summer at Summer Beach Project in

Destin, Fla. Students worked a full-time job while participating in evangelistic outreach programs, discipleship groups, socials and time with a local church.

Sophomore family studies major Caroline Dill spent her summer in Destin with Summer Beach Project.

"We worked a full time job, typically at a fast food restaurant. I worked at Sonic," said Dill. "In the evenings we would have different sessions equipping us to better share the gospel and helping us deepen our faith."

She said the summer opened her eyes even more to the purpose she has as a Christian.

"I began to understand not only the importance of pursuing a relationship with Christ but also the importance of sharing your faith with others," said Dill. "We are called to be ambassadors to Christ and not keep our faith to ourselves."

Dill will be returning to Destin this summer and serving as a room leader.

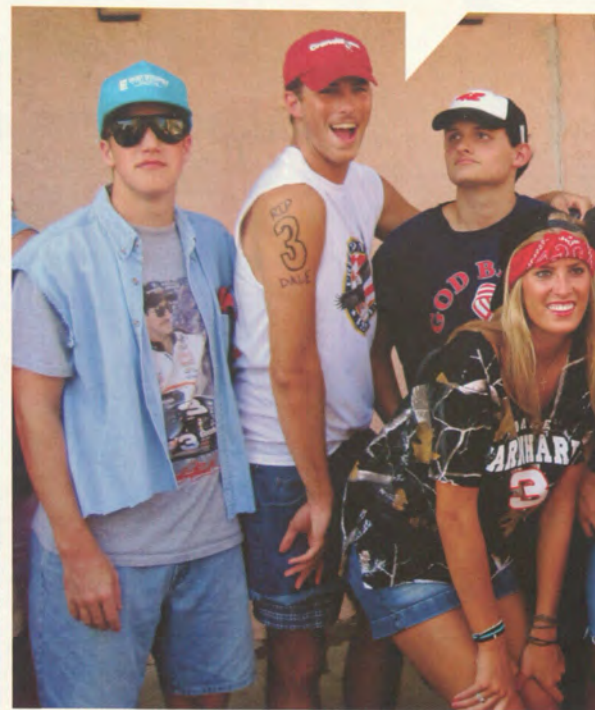


I began to understand not only the importance of pursuing a relationship with Christ but also the importance of sharing your faith with others. We are called to be ambassadors to Christ and not keep our faith to ourselves.

Caroline Dill

At Summer Beach Project, students wore their best costumes for themed social events in Destin, Fla

Students gathered in Harry's every Wednesday for an evening of worship and sharing of God's word.



"I'm incredibly pumped to see what God has in store for everyone this summer," said Dill. "I would recommend SBP to everyone, nonbelievers and believers alike."

Eighteen other students were asked to spend the summer in Thailand at Khon Kaen University with Campus Outreach's Cross Cultural Project. Senior journalism and mass communication major August Rhea was one of those few. "Before we came to Thailand, my prayer was that I would have the opportunity to share the Gospel and build a trusting relationship with at least one Thai girl. God far exceeded my expectations," said Rhea. "After our fifth week, I had the chance to share the Gospel with nine girls. I am so thankful for each of these girls and got to build an even deeper trust and help show them more of the truth as those weeks continued."

Rhea said she loved serving the people in Thailand and the friendships she built throughout the summer. "The Thai Christians received us with such warmth and self-sacrificing friendship. I gained a deep love for these brothers and sisters in Christ who welcomed us into their world to serve alongside one another and labor for the lost," said Rhea. "It was definitely one of the best summers of my life and I praise God for all His goodness & faithfulness throughout that special time."

One reason many cited for why they attended CO each week was for its community. Before worship, students came to hang out and catch up.



younglife

Commitment to make an impact

by Becca Lafferty

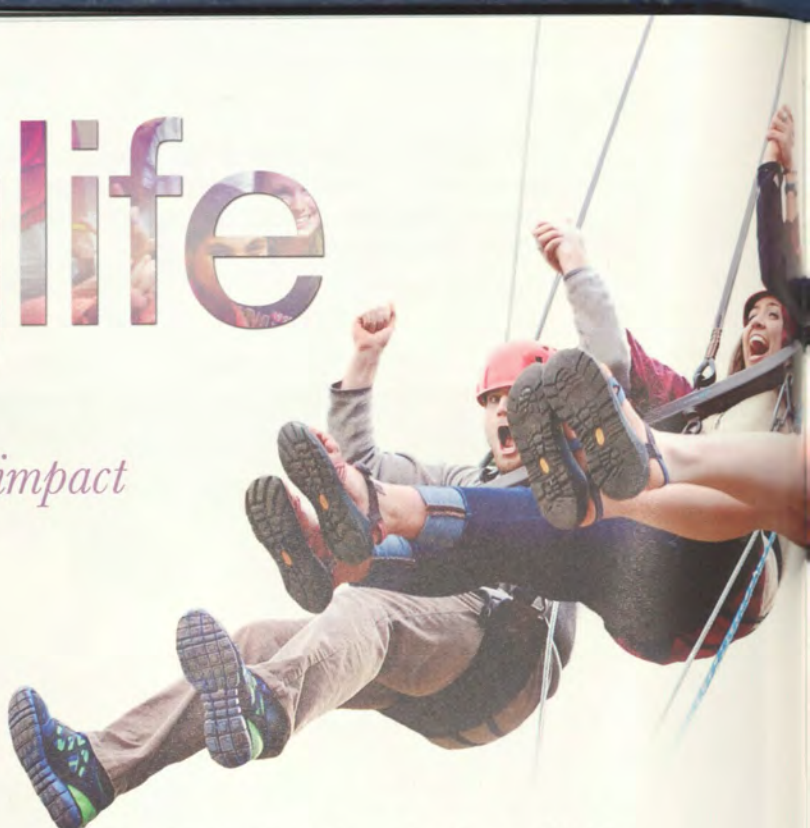
It was nearly impossible to escape the idea of outreach on campus. A plethora of opportunities were available for students to get involved with likeminded peers on campus. Perhaps the true challenge lied in reaching past the gates of the immediate campus and becoming involved in the lives of those that share the space of Birmingham. One such group that attempted to build these bridges and connections was YoungLife.

YoungLife is a ministry that focuses on middle school and high school students who sometimes have little or no interest in Christianity or learning about having a relationship with Christ. Alex Nichols, a sophomore pre-business major, has been involved in YoungLife. "YoungLife is about building relationships with students wherever they might be. In their cafeteria, at their ball games, at the movie theater," he said. "The goal is to love students and help show them that they have a heavenly Father who loves them even when it seems that no one else cares."

There were quite a few University students involved in YoungLife at schools in the surrounding area such as Vestavia Hills High School, Homewood High School,

Liberty Park Middle School and Brookwood Middle School—just to name a few. These YoungLife leaders committed at least five to seven hours every week to spending time with middle school and high school students and building relationships with these students. In order to become a leader, one must commit to training for a semester with other college students.

Sarah Zadick, a sophomore nutrition and dietetics major, went through training this year. "So far, YoungLife has impacted me in that it is growing me as a person, a mentor, a leader, and someone whom high school students can look up to and trust," said Zadick. YoungLife was an exciting and interactive way for students on this campus to get connected with younger students on other campuses and to be a bright light and witness.



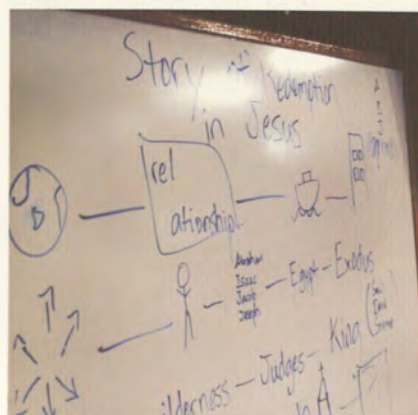
faith



YoungLife leader BJ Biggio led his group in a time of devotion, reading from scripture and leading in prayer.



Students pulled out their best tacky Christmas sweaters for a Christmas party among Birmingham YoungLife leaders.





university Christian

Building spiritual community

fellowship

by Laura Hash

Many student-focused organizations desired to promote spiritual and communal growth meet both on and off campus. One of these off-campus organizations is University Christian Fellowship, more fondly referred to by attendees as UCF. Sophomore physics major Taylor Friesen has attended UCF meetings for two years. "UCF brings a strong community aspect that is needed to help cultivate Christian faith throughout college and in life," said Friesen.

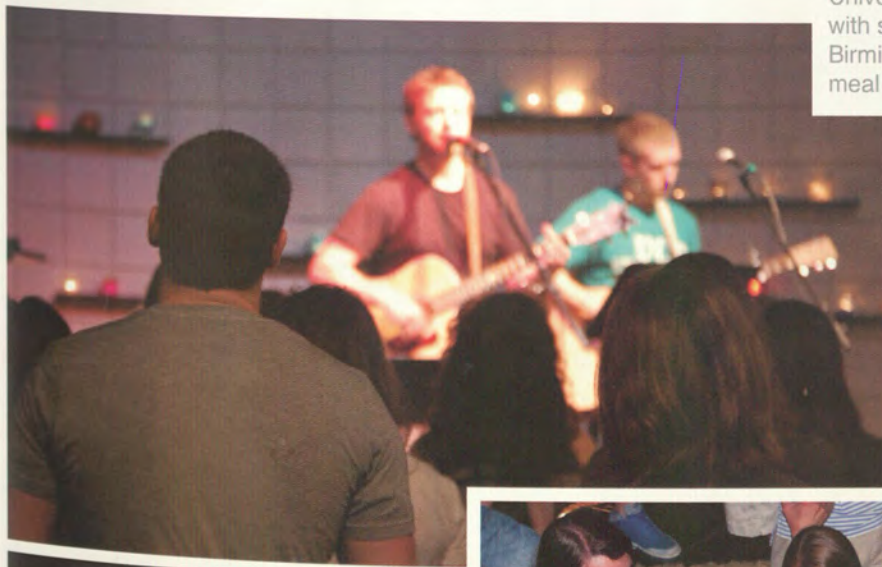
Mountain Brook Community Church College pastor, Joel Busby, lead the ministry. The position of director, previously filled by Andy Byers, was new to Busby as of summer 2011. Busby served beneath Byers as a discipleship intern 2009-2011, prior to Byers' relocation to England. Byers made the transition in order to pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Durham. The shift was a large one for the UCF ministry team, yet staff members remained excited about the next chapter of their ministry.

This excitement was tangibly seen in the way UCF has continued to thrive and reach out to many college students in the Birmingham area. The success of student

outreach was shown in the 75 minute long Wednesday night worship gatherings, in which many UAB, Samford and Southeastern Bible College students participate. However, these sessions were just one of many ways that the UCF staff engaged students in the area. Multiple small groups, partially segregated by school and location, met weekly to more deeply discuss issues addressed on Wednesday nights. A student engagement team was also active in reaching out to University students and the monthly "At Table" event also successfully brought students together for food, fellowship, worship and communion.

UCF leaders anticipated more structural shifts as Assistant Director and worship leader Sarah Holsombeck and husband, Jordan, relocated to Haiti in January to focus on missions, but the overall atmosphere of the ministry can be summed up as excited—excited for growth, excited for missions, excited for another great year to come.

Gathered in the UCF house, University students gathered with students from around the Birmingham area to share a meal before worship."



r.a.n.s.o.m.

A radical acquaintance with Christ



faith

As one of the founding members, Jeremy Towns spoke to the co-ed worship service that met the first Monday of each month.

by Becca Lafferty

Radical Athlete and Student Oasis Ministry is a group on campus that has evolved in the past few years and has a very unique story. R.A.N.S.O.M. started out as the "Football Bible Study" and was led by Jamael Lett, a former defensive back on the football team. Football players got together to study God's word together. Soon, it grew to a larger group that was led by Coach Chris Brassfield, the assistant football coach at the time. Brassfield led the group in his home, but when he decided to accept a position at a different university, the group started meeting in other apartments off campus. Eventually, a girls' branch of R.A.N.S.O.M. was developed and led by senior biochemistry major and goalkeeper for the girls' soccer team Alyssa Whitehead.

"We talk about real topics at every meeting," senior sports medicine major Jeremy Towns said. "We try to help people understand the need for Jesus Christ." A typical Monday night meeting of R.A.N.S.O.M. included Christian rap music, worship music and a speaker. The group broke up into smaller groups to discuss the topic. The goal was to discuss topics that were relevant and meaningful to all of those in attendance. "The purpose of the organization shall be to help students as well as any member of the community to grow spiritually by becoming acquainted with Christ, and to bring people from all walks of life together in an innovative worship atmosphere, especially targeting individuals who might not feel as welcome by other organizations," said Towns.

R.A.N.S.O.M. met in two groups on Monday nights—the boys met in the Mountain View lobby and the girls took over the basement of Evergreen, raising their voices to worship Jesus. It was not uncommon to see girls open their doors in the basement to listen to these voices so earnestly singing. Once a month, R.A.N.S.O.M. held a large meeting of both guys and girls together in order to share and to be together as the body of Christ. There was also a move towards the formation of small groups and weekend meetings which are called Overtime Bible Studies.

R.A.N.S.O.M. was not just for athletes but invited students from across campus to join into this unique worship environment. The goal was to learn more about Christ and to develop a relationship with him that glorifies him to the fullest extent.

R.A.N.S.O.M. expanded its influence outside of campus—students from other universities around Birmingham attended on a regular basis. RANSOM also had a brother and sister ministry, The Unit at Lawson. This unique campus ministry branched out and brought God's word to the city of Birmingham, as well as to the students on campus.



Gathered in the lobby of Mountain View, students from across campus came together to listen, worship and pray."

With arms high and hearts abandoned, students lifted the name of Christ through worship.



catholic

Student Association

Growth, fellowship and awareness

by Laura Hash

The Catholic Student Association had three goals for this year: spiritual growth, fellowship and campus awareness.

With the aim of providing spiritual growth for students, the organization achieved and exceeded a two-year goal of establishing monthly on-campus masses administered by local priests. Often, the priests who administered these monthly masses also offered confession for students, either before or after the service. "This allowed students to receive and easily access the sacrament of confession on a regular basis," said senior nutrition major and CSA president Christina Schoerner.

Spiritual growth was additionally promoted through monthly meetings, routinely held in library room 235. The youth pastor from Our Lady of Sorrows and the Dominican Sisters were two examples of local speakers invited to speak at these meetings. More notably, collaboration with the Diocese of Birmingham and Beeson Divinity School, brought Father Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher to the Papal Household since 1980, to campus.

The organization promoted community fellowship through social outings and service projects. Social outings included dinners and a CSA bowling night where members were invited to hang out, laugh and get to know one another. Service opportunities for the year included serving food at a local Firehouse Shelter and Habitat for Humanity projects. These outreach projects enabled students to both commune with one another and serve Birmingham residents in need.

The organization promoted campus awareness by forming community with other religious organizations as well as joining them in prayer. With the help of Matt Kerlin, CSA also extended opportunities for all University students to attend masses held during the spring semester.

"The Catholic Student Association provides a safe environment for Catholics and those interested in Catholicism to dive deeper into the foundational teachings and beliefs of an often misunderstood Christian denomination," said senior psychology major and chaplain of CSA Molly Cox.

faith



The Catholic Student Association provides a safe environment for Catholics and those interested in Catholicism to dive deeper into the foundational teachings and beliefs of an often misunderstood Christian denomination.

Molly Cox



Molly Cox and Laura Lynn Williams took part in an Ash Wednesday service as well as and a time for fellowship.



wordplayers

A cheerful heart is good medicine

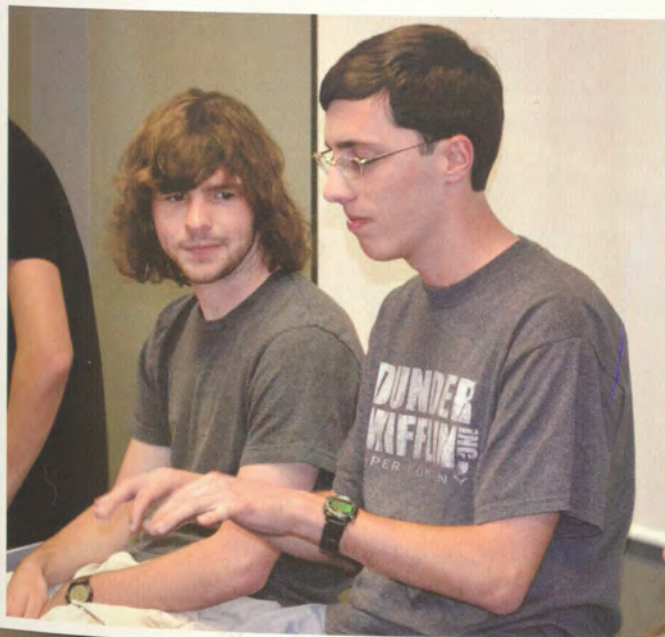
by Becca Lafferty

Combining a love for the arts with an expression of one's faith is the goal of Wordplayers, a skit troupe housed in the umbrella of University Ministries. The original cast was ten students who loved Jesus and loved to perform, and they created the group to be an encouragement to others. University Ministries created this group to be an encouragement to campus through performances. Wordplayers performed at convocation, Shiloh, local churches and schools.

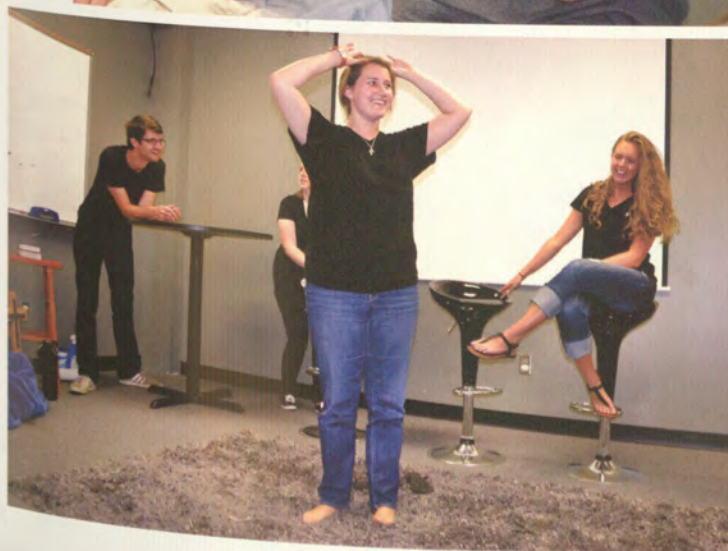
This fun-loving group performed skits that were humorous and often based in improvisational methods. In fact, being comfortable with improv was one stipulation for joining the group. "Wordplayers is for people who have no problem making a fool of themselves," said junior journalism and mass communication major Jackie Long. A taste of this silliness could be seen in one skit where all of the participants acted like chickens, ninjas and

ballerinas. This humor was used to illustrate the different attributes of Christ and the joy found in the Christian faith. However, the group also had some serious skits in their repertoire that were poignant and thought provoking.

Perhaps the most important part of Wordplayers was the community. "Wordplayers, because it is small, is a great support group," said Long. "I've gotten to know people so well because you have to be open and honest with people in acting—you have to know how to be yourself before you can be someone else." This community encouraged one another to maintain a close and personal walk with Christ. The group welcomed new-comers with open arms and hopes to expand further in the years to come. The arts were an incredibly important way to minister to others. Glorifying God through dramatic talent was one way to insure that worship existed on campus in all shapes and forms.

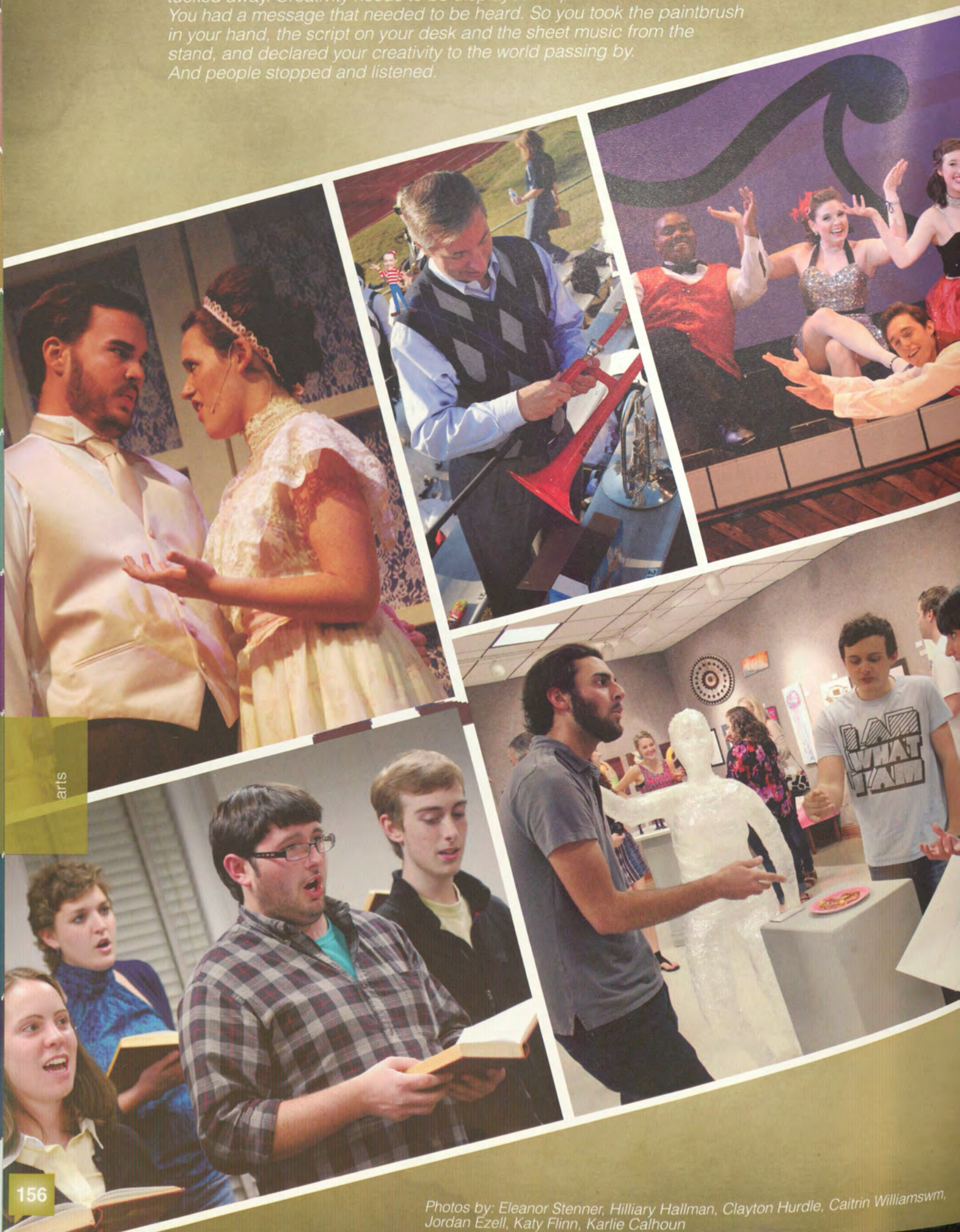


Wordplayers performed at local churches with the mission of spreading the word of Christ through improv skits.





From the moment the curtain rose to the seconds it took for the audience to jump to its feet, you declared your creativity. Whether on the stage, in the art gallery or behind a piano, creativity is not something that can be tucked away. Creativity needs to be displayed. Expressed. Declared. You had a message that needed to be heard. So you took the paintbrush in your hand, the script on your desk and the sheet music from the stand, and declared your creativity to the world passing by. And people stopped and listened.

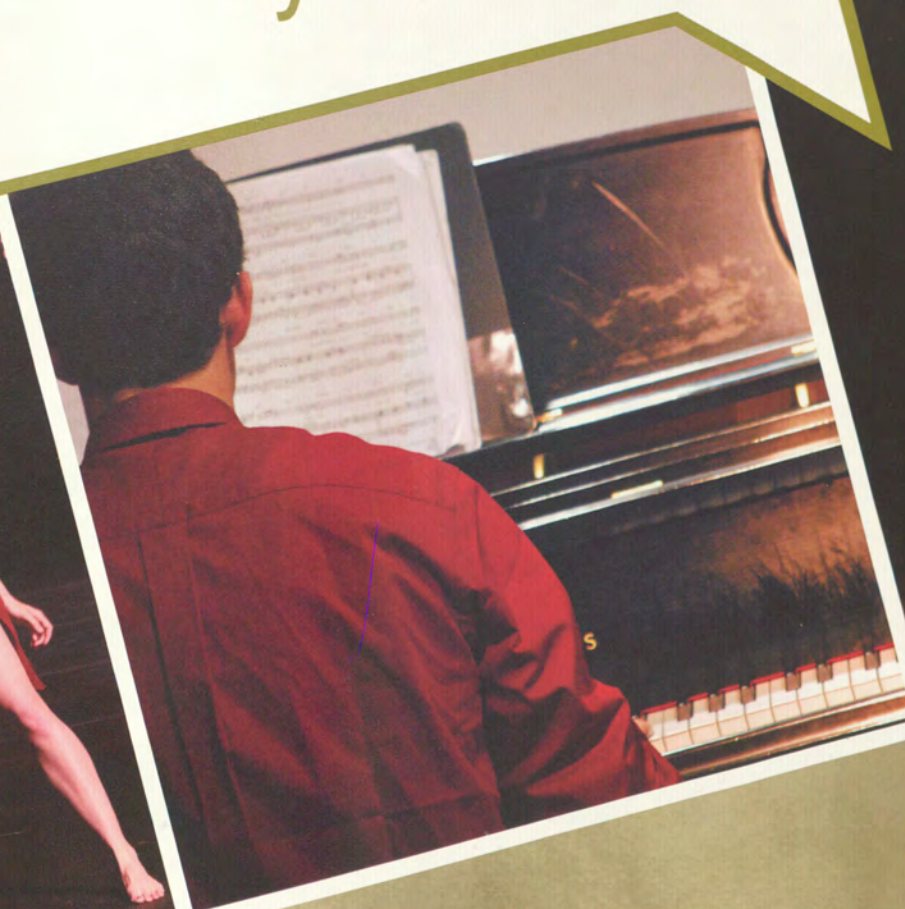


arts



Arts

declare
your creativity



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marching & color

band guard

Passionate about performing

by Elizabeth Gardner

If there was one music group every student should recognize, it was the marching band. Present at every home football game, the band filled Seibert Stadium with the sounds of its support for the Bulldogs on the field. "One of my favorite things about band is the excitement of football games," said band member and sophomore, nutrition major Rebecca Vander Veer. This was Vander Veer's first year in the marching band, and she enjoyed it so much that she planned to participate during the rest of her time at the University.

The band's halftime performance was called the "Mshow," and it featured songs from the musical *Man of La Mancha* and other music, such as the song *Malagueña*. The performance had a distinct Spanish flair. Rebecca said that playing the halftime show was the best part of being in the marching band. "Looking up to the bright stadium lights in the first moments of the show was one of the best feelings in the world," said Vander Veer.

For every performance, the marching band was joined by the color guard. The love of performing ran just as strongly in the color guard members as in the band members. For senior Chrislyn Morse, an elementary education major, performing was a passion. She participated in color guard throughout high school as well as in college. "Color guard is such a wonderful outlet,"

said Morse. "I love being outside and doing what I like best - performing."

And that was not always an easy task, according to Morse, who also mentioned how much skill and determination each show took.

The halftime show and a similar love of performance were not the only things that connect these two groups. A sense of friendship and camaraderie filled the atmosphere of both groups. "We have so much fun dancing along to the music, taking crazy pictures, and cracking inside jokes," said Vander Veer. Morse shared similar thoughts about the color guard. "Each member is so sweet and unique," Morse said. "It makes for a fun group of girls to be around!"

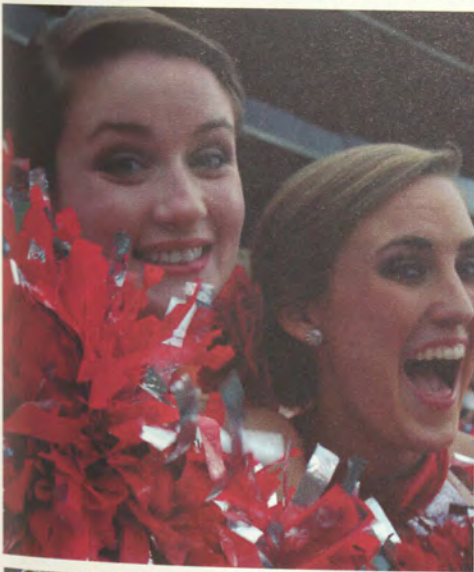
Whether they were having fun on the sidelines or performing on the field, the marching band and the color guard were an integral part of any football game in Seibert Stadium.

arts



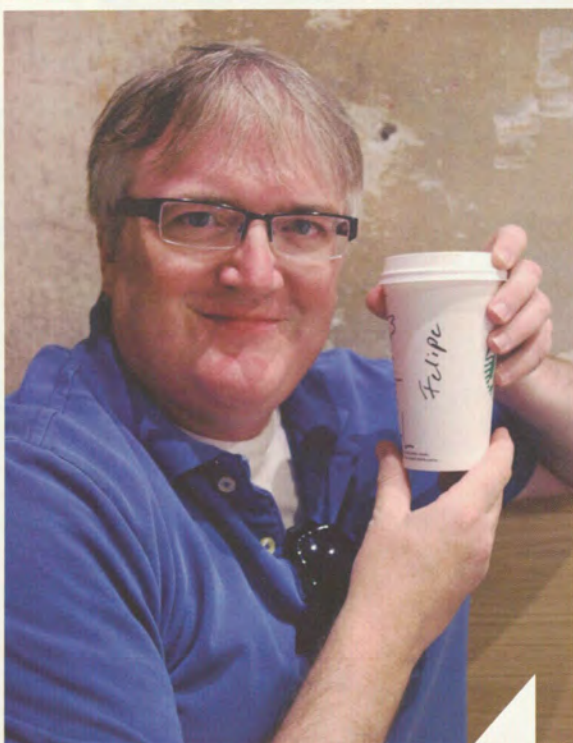


The band was honored to perform in the Jordan-Hare Stadium for the Samford v. Auburn game.



Members of the band relaxed after performing their half-time show.





Dr. Copeland showed off his playful personality, joking around at a Starbucks in Europe.



The choir entertained locals and tourists when they performed impromptu concerts while sightseeing.

a cappella

choir

Voices raised as one

by Becca Lafferty

St. Augustine said, "Those who sing pray twice." Certainly, listening to the A Cappella Choir on campus could be described as a spiritual experience. This elite choir was a gathering of some of the most vocally talented students on campus. When these voices filled Hodges Chapel or the Wright Center, one could not help but listen in quiet appreciation and awe.

A Cappella Choir was the auditioned choir for the School of the Arts. Auditions were a grueling test of vocal range, tonal memory and sight-reading capabilities. Students who committed to A Cappella Choir spent an hour and fifteen minutes daily on Monday through Thursday working on their performance pieces and keeping their voices in prime shape.

These sixty-five individuals were gathered from each class and got to know each other very well. They even moved in early at the start of the year for intense rehearsals. "You spend all this time with the same people every day and you become a family. We're a choir, but we're also a community within itself," said Byron Turk, a sophomore vocal performance major. This family had ample opportunity to grow closer as they sang in a monthly vespers service, put on several concerts on campus, and took mini-tours to churches.

In the summer, the choir had the opportunity to sing in several exotic locations in Europe. The A Capella Choir expertly represented the University in the Florilege Vocal

de Tours, traveling to France and Spain. The choir filled cathedrals in Paris, Cahors, and Barcelona with their angelic voices and stunning sound.

Dr. Copeland, the choir's director, had previously performed at an international level and was great to work with. "He is brilliant," said Turk. "He truly cares about his students and improving our performances." The choir hoped to continue to be a vocally challenging atmosphere that provided opportunities at home and abroad for ambitious students.



samford ministries choir

by Elizabeth Gardner

Love God, love music, change the world

One way to have a musical life on campus was through the Samford Ministries Choir. This year's choir was made up of students from all classes and majors who came together because of a shared love for God and music. Alberto Coutoumanos, a senior history major, said the choir focused on ministry. "The 'M' in our name, ministry, has become a particular focus for the past couple of years and we plan on building on that this year," he said. "Wherever we go we will praise God and invite those around us to participate in worship with us, and we will minister to all we come in contact with."

The Samford Ministries Choir took a Mega Tour to Savannah, Georgia. While on this tour, they performed their show and spent time volunteering at the YMCA. Last year, Samford Ministries Choir took their MegaTour to New Orleans, Louisiana. Coutoumanos had a memorable experience. "My most memorable moment in choir was working the New Orleans mission where we helped work

health clinics for the poor and homeless, played with the children, and helped clean up the streets," he said.

But Samford Ministries Choir was not all work and no play. In fact, it was the fun and friendships that made the bonds between students in the choir so strong.

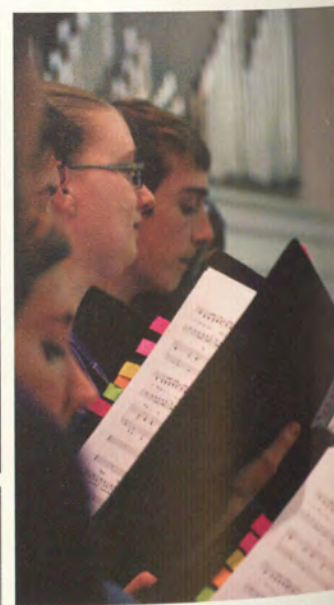
One member, Alison Cotey, a sophomore early childhood education major, said the choir was like a family. "I love the community we have as a group," she said. "Choir is really more like a family than anything, and we all feel like we can be ourselves around one another."

"As I started getting more involved, I developed friendships and became a part of this larger family that has become a vital part of my college experience," said Coutoumanos.

Samford Ministries Choir was for students who wanted to use their love of music to benefit the world and to show God's love to those around them.



Jackie Long, Craig Kleimyer and Jennifer Rice sung their hearts out during one of the choir's weekly practices.



Leading the way, Lauren Dean served as the choir's director for her third consecutive year.



Robert Hutchins made notes as the choir prepped for its next performance.

arts



As I started getting more involved, I developed friendships and became a part of this larger family that has become a vital part of my college experience.

Alberto Coutoumanos

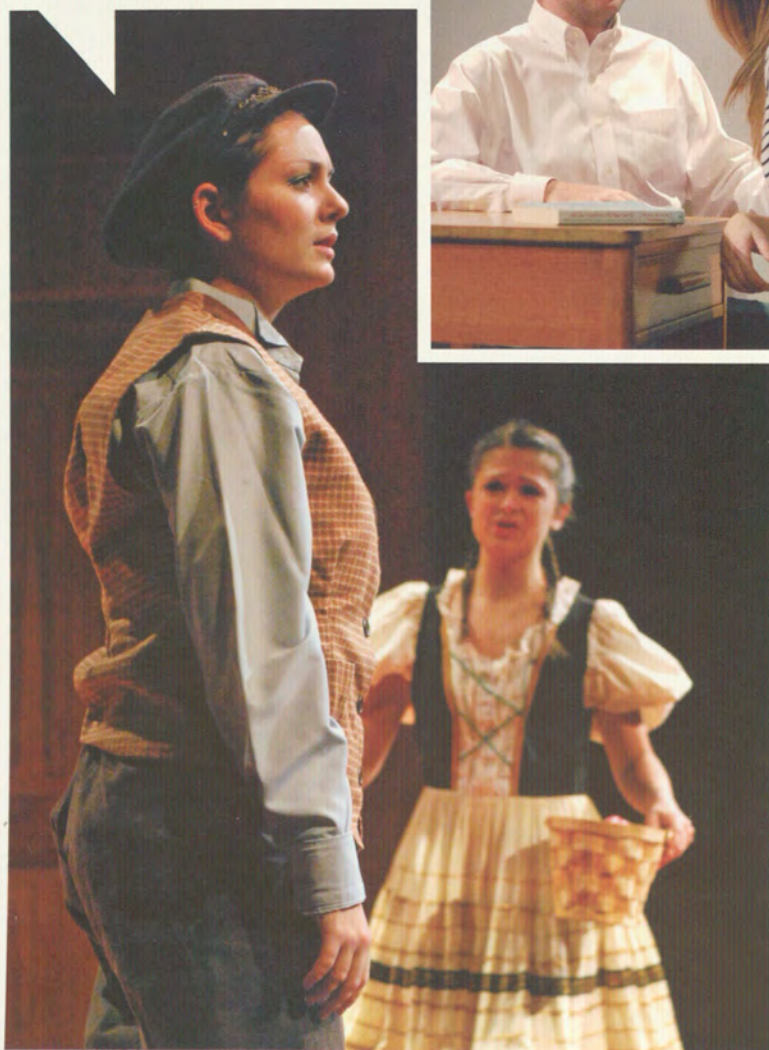
With each tour, the Samford Ministries Choir hosted homecoming performances in Reid Chapel for friends, family and faculty to enjoy.



Candace Collins and Holly Blair Formentano took the stage and performed a song from *Hansel and Gretel* by Humperdink.



Because the performances were made up of multiple scenes, Byron Turk played several roles throughout the night.



The new program attracted students from all years, including freshman Abi Benke.

arts

samford

opera

From Verona to the Westside

by Caroline Payne

When one thinks of opera, often images of grandeur and stirring emotions come to mind. Rarely does one think to laugh at such performances, but for the Samford Opera, achieving the goal of entertaining an audience through a variety of opera selections was as easy as Do Re Mi.

Opera members joined together in Bolding Studio on a Friday and Saturday night in early November to entertain friends and family with both somber and sassy pieces from popular musicals and operas. But before the performance, hours of practicing were invested.

"It is always exciting to get to the blocking process of a performance," said sophomore vocal performance major Leah Doss. "At this point, all your notes are learned, and you get to play around and have fun with your character, and work on interaction with your scene partners. We rehearsed two to three times a week, and four to five days a week closer to the show."

The Friday show opened on a light note with "I Feel Pretty" from the popular musical *Westside Story*, sung by junior vocal performance major Holly Blair Formentano, who played the character Maria, as others danced around her in bright costumes.

There I am in my costume, having worked hard and prepared completely, and I get to connect with the audience and, in a sense, get their feedback.

Amberlyn Richardson

Next, sophomore vocal performance major Byron Turk and freshman musical theater major Abi Benke sang a duet from Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, followed by Leah Doss and junior vocal performance major Amberlyn Richardson, who performed "The Cuckoo" from *Hansel and Gretel* by Humperdink.

Benke joined with junior vocal performance major Megan Mitchell in the short piece "Ohio" from *Wonderful Town*, moving the audience to sympathize with the girls as they sang of home before they go to sleep.

In "Nun, liebes Weibchen" from *Der Stein der Weisen* (The Philosopher's Stone), junior music major Amy Lovin played a woman refusing to join her husband, played by Byron Turk, because of his heedlessness earlier that day.

The show ended with "What a Movie!" from *Trouble in Tahiti*, leaving the audience with feelings of joy and lightheartedness. Senior vocal performance major Candace Collins played character Dinah as she reenacted a movie she saw earlier in her friend's hat shop. Others stood around as props and hat racks covered in hats to lighten the scene.

"For me, the most memorable part is always the performance because that is the culmination of all the work," said Amberlyn Richardson. "There I am in my costume, having worked hard and prepared completely, and I get to connect with the audience and, in a sense, get their feedback."



Leah Doss and Byron Turk perform a duet from Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

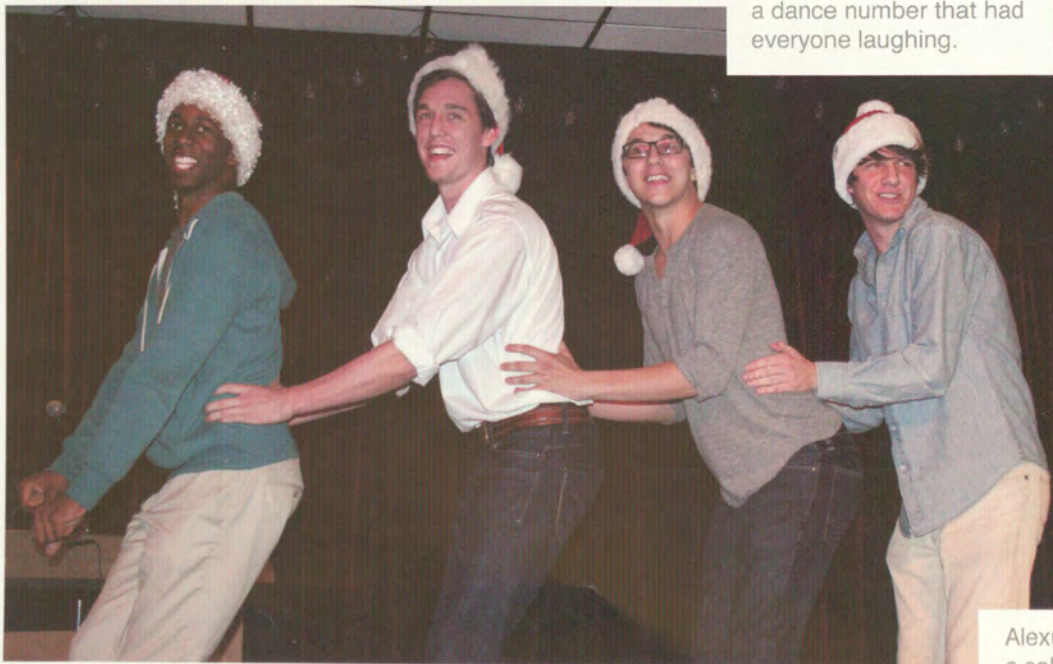
Hannah Bond, Teal Dvornik and Jocelyn Lonquist belted out a song during a MNL in Harry's.



Laura Taunton and Steven Rice performed a scene they had prepared.



Matt Parker and Sam Shaughnessy performed a dance number that had everyone laughing.



Alexis Taylor sang a solo for a spring performance.

arts

monday

night live

Bringing monday night magic

by Becca Lafferty

Not everyone on campus loved the spotlight, but during Alpha Psi Omega's regular Monday Night Live performances, it was impossible to escape the infectious desire to perform. The first Monday Night Live started the year off with a sparkly, synthesizer-filled bang. Alpha Psi Omega had decided upon a 1980s theme for the first Monday Night Live of the year. Not all of the shows were themed, but this certainly added some pizzazz for the audience as well as to the performances. The audience members came decked out in their best 1980s attire—windbreakers, leotards and teased hair abounded. Performances included hilarious renditions of classic 1980s pop songs such as "Jessie's Girl" by Rick Springfield and "Total Eclipse of the Heart" by Bonnie Tyler.

Monday Night Live is magic. There's really no other way to describe what it means to everyone involved.

Byron Turk

Monday Night Live was a place for theater, music, and dance majors to come together and celebrate each other. It was sponsored by Alpha Psi Omega, which is the National Theater Honor Society. Monday Night Live took place on designated Monday nights throughout the year. Performers were asked to prepare skits, songs, dances or monologues to perform for an audience made up of their peers.

The inspiration for this regular event came from the Saturday Night Live comedy sketch program. Carrie Morgan, a senior musical theatre major, was in charge of Monday Night Live this year. "Monday Night Live is a chance to let our hair

down, to entertain," said Morgan. "Our professor isn't going to let us do a Saturday Night Live sketch in our Shakespeare class, but we can do it for all our friends at MNL."

Monday Night Live made it a primary goal to create an atmosphere of encouragement and appreciation for the work of others. Everyone was invited to perform. "We love having people come in from outside the department to watch or perform," said Morgan.

One could always expect loud and enthusiastic applause, shout-outs and whistling during and after performances, which helped to create a sort of home for performers. Byron Turk, a sophomore vocal performance major, was a regular on the Monday Night Live line-up. "Monday Night Live is magic," said Turk. "There's really no other way to describe what it means to everyone involved."

With a working spotlight and willing participants, Monday Night Live was a wonderful addition to the community. It allowed students to portray with ease their passion to perform.



39 steps

Bringing professional acting to the stage

by Virginia Harris

Amidst the buzz on campus during Family Weekend, the School of the Arts kicked off their theatre season with many laughs and a little intrigue in Harrison Theatre. Throughout *The 39 Steps*, a stage adaptation of Alfred Hitchcock's film of the same name, student actors entertained the audience with a humorous depiction of pre-World War I melodrama.

The plot followed the dashing Richard Hannay through his accidental foray into the world of German spies before World War I. When the beautiful Annabella is murdered in his apartment, Hannay takes it upon himself to complete her secret spy mission while attempting to evade Scotland Yard (as a suspect in Annabella's murder) as well as the clutches of the evil Professor Jones' henchmen.

The cast of six actors portrayed 50 different characters throughout the course of the play. Not only did they pull this enormous task off, they did it with wit and charm. Using a minimal cast and set, the production cleverly utilized the original film's rough editing and exaggerated acting, adding an extra layer of funniness to the production.

A favorite scene of senior history major Alex McLure involves Hannay climbing in and out of a train car as it barrels through the English country side. Of course, the train car is composed of traveling trunks and a window

frame. The actors bounce on the trunks to simulate the jolting of the train car, hold the window frame in place with their own hands and even simulate the sound of the train compartment door opening.

"When they're in the train and they're bouncing along, and the two actors are changing the hats, and their coats are flapping in the wind. I just think it's really good physical comedy and also showcased their talents for the different accents and facial expressions that they used," said McLure.

After seeing the play in London, senior English major, Hannah McSween said she was interested in seeing how director Don Sandley interpreted the script.

"As a whole, the production was awesome. A large part of the humor in the play comes from the sparse set and props, and the production used these very effectively. The rotating stage added a lot and was used well," said McSween.

McSween also was highly impressed by the actor's performances. "The actors delivered the physical humor really well, and they did an amazing job constantly switching characters and costumes. They were overly dramatic when the satire called for it and were always funny which captures the spirit of the play," said McSween.



arts



The cast of six actors portrayed 50 different characters throughout the course of the play.

The play was performed by a total of six actors, including Ben Barlow, Emily McLeod, Magdalena Laws, Matt Parker, Katie Beth Jewell and Hannah Bond.





Carrie Morgan pulled out her tap shoes for a large dance number in act two.

arts



white Christmas

School of the Arts brought Berlin's classic to the Wright Center

by Jonathan Adams

Dreams of a white Christmas became a reality in December.

The School of the Arts performed a stage adaptation of Irving Berlin's famous musical "White Christmas." Featuring a cast, crew, choir and live orchestra, the production was the University's most ambitious project to date.

"White Christmas" tells the story of veterans Bob Wallace and Phil Davis, who became Broadway stars after serving in World War II. A mutual friend asks the duo to give his sisters, Betty and Judy, an audition, and the flirtatious Davis falls in love with the pair. Chaos ensues as Davis tricks Wallace into following the sisters to Pine Tree, Vermont. Upon arrival, the four meet at the financially strained Columbia Inn, managed by a stressed Thomas Waverly - Wallace and Davis' former general, who wishes to return to the army. The magic begins when the four, along with a myriad of locals, stage a performance to cheer up Waverly.

Junior musical theatre major Steven Rice, who played Davis, described the show as "mind-blowing." "It's so big," said Rice. "That's all I have to say."

Department of Theater Chair Don Sandley, who plays Waverly, agreed. "It's the biggest show we've ever attempted," said Sandley. "We sold out the Wright Center."

Director Mark Castle said his greatest difficulty in leading this massive endeavor was retaining the charm of the original movie. "We wanted to meet expectations," said Castle. "It would be a mistake to conflict with the movie too much."

The magnitude of the production - budgeted at over \$15,000 and involving over 100 students - became evident when one watched Castle's "festival of Christmas," which he said united the School of the Arts.

"The scale of the set and the number of people involved made this show spectacular. Even in Birmingham, you would never find that many people involved," said junior theatre major Sam Shaughnessy.

"White Christmas" also marked Shaughnessy's first jump from performing on stage to working behind the scenes as an assistant director.

"It's another list of responsibilities," said Shaughnessy. "I've never gotten to see this much come together. It's quite a feat."

Despite the show's intensity, the cast fell in love with it. "I care so much about the show," said Steven Rice. "You make time for the things you really care about."

Sandley said he agreed. "We love what we do so much. We forget how much time we spend on it."



A little night music

Sophisticated productions became routine

by Becca Lafferty

Do you want to go to A Little Night Music on Saturday night?" "What kind of music?" "A Little Night Music!" "No, you don't understand—what kind of music would we be listening to?" This was a conversation overheard on campus. Hopefully, this person figured out exactly what A Little Night Music entailed or they would have been missing out. The spring musical this year put on by the School of the Arts and a part of the Michael J. and Mary Anne Freeman Theatre and Dance Series was A Little Night Music, music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book written by Hugh Wheeler.

Directed by Mark Castle and assistant directed by sophomore theatre major Anna Stroud, this musical was a huge undertaking including 21 cast members, a crew of 21 students and an orchestra of 21 students. The cast members were made up of theatre, musical theatre and music students. The crew helped to move scenery, supervised quick changes and positioned microphones. Other students were involved with costumes, scenery, lighting and sound cables.

This production was truly student-oriented. The set and costumes were designed by the winners of the student design competition—junior theatre major Sam Shaughnessy and junior musical theatre major Elizabeth

Ann Naro, respectively. The costumes were beautifully accurate, and the set was very impressive—it was very versatile and the rotating stage was put to great use. This production's budget was approximately eight to ten thousand dollars, while the Broadway production of the same musical has a budget of around eight to ten million dollars.

A Little Night Music was a masterpiece that depicts a truly tangled web of relationships that includes romantic affairs ranging from a stepmother and her stepson to an actress and her long-lost love. A Broadway classic, it had recently been revived starring Catherine Zeta Jones and Angela Lansbury. All of the pieces were in three-fourths time—also known as a waltz. It also contained the iconic song, "Send in the Clowns" which Naro sang. The song rendered the audience speechless and left them with chills.

Castle said he was impressed with the production. "For our musical theatre program it represents a new level of complexity and sophistication," he said. "We've tackled big, classic projects like Thoroughly Modern Millie and White Christmas, which had their own enormous logistical challenges, but this takes us to different level of skill and precision and helps us prepare our students for what they'll find in the world after college."

arts





The musical included a chorus that provided commentary and advice throughout the musical.



Julie Gray played Anne Eggerman, the stepmother to Steven Rice's character, Henrik.

Samford dance

Samford dance gained momentum

by Rebekah Robinson

In 2007, through collaboration with the Alabama Ballet, the University created the opportunity for students to earn a minor in dance. Students seeking this minor took classes in ballet, jazz, modern, choreography, history and various other production courses. They had the opportunity to perform in the dance company Dansynthesis, as well as put on the dance concert held every spring in Harrison Theatre.

After months of planning, creating, choreographing, designing lights and costumes and collaborating, the concert, Momentum, took place during the last weekend of March.

Director Lisa Gibbs was with her students through the entire process.

When I stop looking at and analyzing the choreography and get lost in the intent, that's a good dance. Watching my students find new ways of expressing themselves without words, and seeing the look of surprise and excitement in their eyes when they truly discover something brand new with movement.

Lisa Gibbs

"The majority of dances for this year's production were final projects for DANC 401, Choreography. In the fall, the choreographers took the class to learn about the craft of dance composition," said Gibbs. "They began formulating their ideas of what they wanted to present and had their music and concept approved by me. We

cast the show in the fall and worked bit by bit around everyone's schedule to create the final product."

Dancers, choreographers and the many students working behind the scenes spent weeks preparing all in effort to create a beautiful, captivating performance.

"The choreographers collaborated with costume designers and the lighting designer to ensure their concept was represented not only in the movement but in the costuming and lighting as well," said Gibbs.

Audra Faust, a senior family studies major with a dance minor, was especially excited to experience two of her own creations performed—the hip hop number titled "Girls!" and a jazz piece called "Good Night Mix."

"It is a great feeling to see your girls onstage, dancing confidently in full costumes with a crowd cheering them on," said Faust. "The dance itself and the cast kind of become your little babies, and you just get so proud of them and you want them to do well, and when you get a lot of positive feedback it makes it worth it."

Faust said she has enjoyed getting to know the many other hardworking students in the dance department.

Gibbs said she especially enjoyed watching the quartet in the second half, which depicted two romantic relationships.

"When I stop looking at and analyzing the choreography and get lost in the intent, that's a good dance," Gibbs said. "Watching my students find new ways of expressing themselves without words, and seeing the look of surprise and excitement in their eyes when they truly discover something brand new with movement."

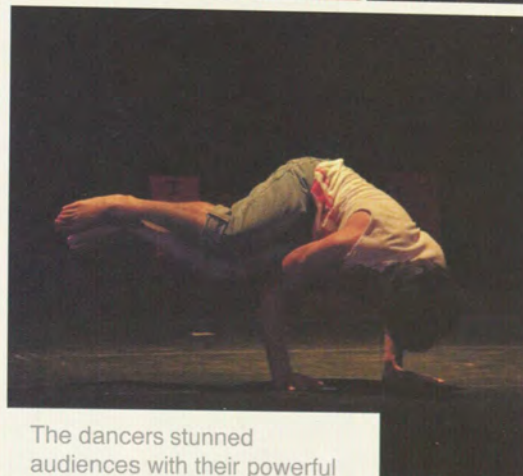




Katrina Brown was one of the dancers who performed a piece during the judges' break at Step Sing.



Christian Noojin and his fellow dancers worked with only student-choreographers to produce the show.



The dancers stunned audiences with their powerful portrayal of emotion through movement.



vocal

Dazzling performances all year long

impact

by Rebekah Robinson

Students were no strangers to the power of song and dance. The Step Sing tradition began over half a century ago, but it only lasts for a few weeks per year. However, a much smaller, more refined group of students participated in a performing group all year long.

"Vocal Impact," a show choir group on campus, directed by senior music education major Lindsay Cleveland, practiced and performed since the beginning of the school year.

The mixed performing group consisted of just less than 30 students, from all classes and majors. The group practiced every Tuesday and Thursday for an hour and a half.

The group spent the year focused on two big performances: a Christmas Cabaret and a spring performance. These performances included individual dance routines, solos, small ensemble songs, medleys and large group numbers.

The group also spent the year recruiting new members and publicizing on campus.

Being a student-led group, there were also challenges.

"The biggest challenge for me has probably been organizing performances," said Cleveland. "You wouldn't think so, but it is very hard to reserve a time and space for performances as well as preparing the group for them."

Sophomore nursing major Katy Flinn said she has loved being a part of Vocal Impact. "It is like Step Sing all year round. I've wanted to do show choir for years, and I'm so happy to have gotten this opportunity," she said. "Having been a dancer all my life, it gives me a chance to still dance and perform at school."

Choreographer Marisa Mullis, a senior fitness and health promotion major, helped create performances to songs from "Last Forever" by Avalon to "The Great Escape" by Boys Like Girls.

"My favorite part was coming up with moves and then watching all that hard work come alive when everyone performed," said Mullis. "To see the group having so much fun with it was the best."

Mullis and Cleveland said the group became a close-knit group of friends.

"The biggest reward has been being part of a 'family' of students who come from many different backgrounds, yet still share the same passion of performing," said Cleveland. "I thank God for such a wonderful group of students."

arts



Ellen Mitchell performed a solo during the group's fall performance.



During the spring performance, Kelsey Forehand sang accompanied by Cole Forehand.

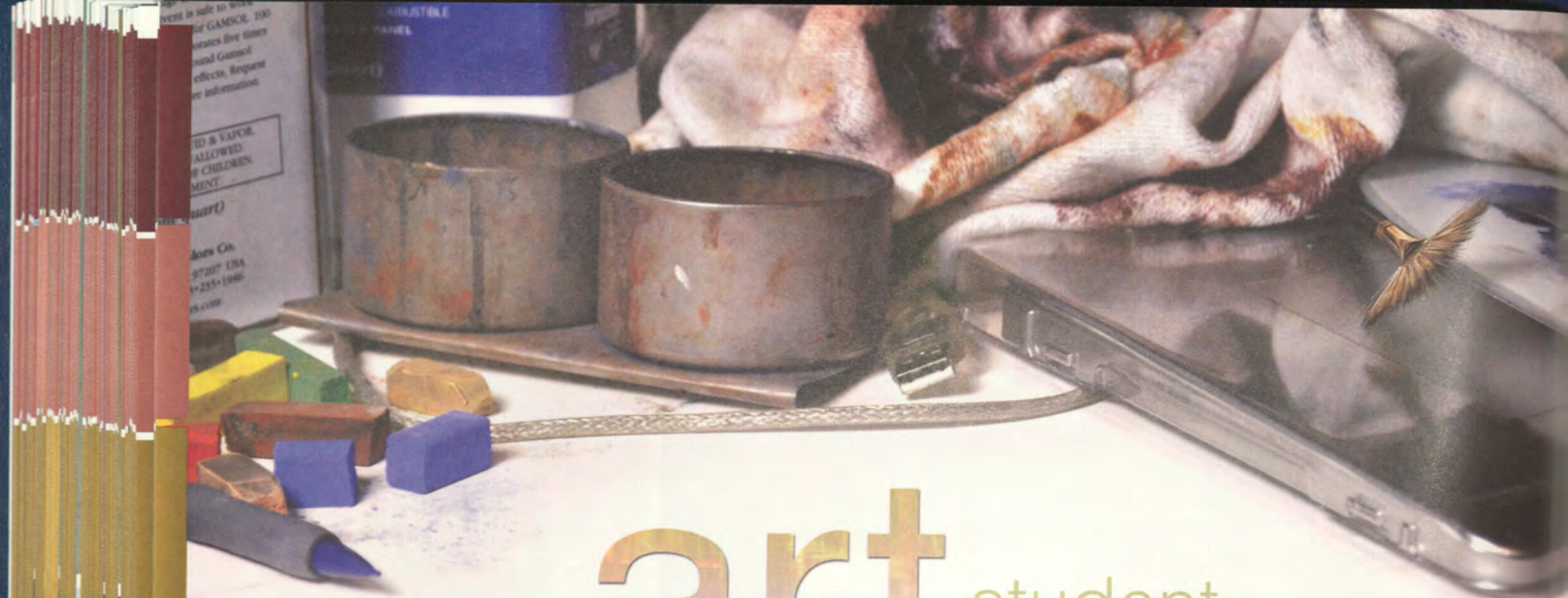


Rebecca Raffa and Rachel Munn sang a duet together for the fall show.



Along with solos and duets, Vocal Impact performed group numbers together.





art student exhibit

It's a great outlet where we're encouraged to create professional pieces of art that aren't just for our portfolios, but pieces that can touch other people.

Kaleigh Warwick

Communicating through creativity

by Rachel Freeny

To many students, the art building was a mysterious building with a maze of hallways. The Student Art Show gave School of the Arts students a chance to shed some light on what went on in all of the studios.

"Arts in general is very secluded sometimes," said Josh Lingreen, a sophomore fine arts major. "A lot of people outside don't really know what goes on."

The art show gave art students "a chance to showcase what they love, and it gave everyone else a chance to see what they do," said Lingreen.

Lingreen had a passion for experimenting with projects, something he tried to show in his work "Self-Portrait." The drawing was a close-up of his face, which is slightly elongated, drawing the viewer's attention to his eyes and giving it an air of seriousness. This was a different side of Lingreen, who said he is normally laid-back and goofy.

The art show also provided students with experience in a more professional, gallery setting. The show was juried, meaning that each work was judged and ranked by a panel of local artists.

"It's a good goal to have every year to create better quality works of art that you can be proud of in the show," said junior fine arts and marketing major Kaleigh Warwick. "It's a great outlet where we're encouraged to create professional pieces of art that aren't just for our portfolios, but pieces that can touch other people."

Warwick sought to connect with people through her painting "Identity," a large, stunning portrait of a young woman. The woman was resting and holding her hand to her face as she cried.

The painting was "a piece about identity and what we seek to put our hope in, those things we put in place of God," said Warwick. "It's a call for raw honesty about how you feel broken sometimes."

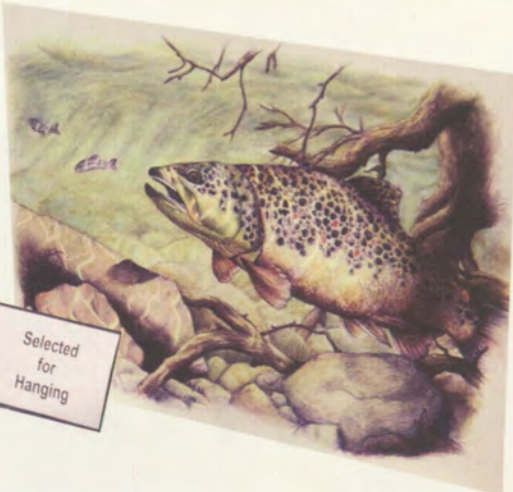
Connecting with the viewer was key, and in order to do that, Lingreen said the artist must love what he or she does. Exploration and experimentation fueled the passion that lies behind each piece.

"Being an artist is all about experiment with different mediums seeing what you like, what's fun," he said. "If you don't love your work, you shouldn't be doing it."





Selected
for
Hanging



Professor Larry
Thompson painted
in his office that
doubled as a studio.



Professors Richard Dendy
and Scott Fisk pose with Jeff
Forstall, who provided gift
certificates to his art supplies
store for the winning artists.



Josh Lingreen
smiled next to his
award-winning chalk
artwork.

arts ambush

Breaking the mold

It was a great occasion that demonstrated the talents of our school and invited the Samford Campus to get involved in the Arts.

Dean Hopkins

by Elizabeth Gardner

A girl floats outside the University Center, dancing along with the whisper of the breeze. The soothing strains of a string quartet can be heard among the gossip and chatter of Ben Brown. Students build a city of dreams. Opponents draw swords and begin to duel. The Jazz Band booms across the Quad. These were the sights and sounds of the first ever Arts Ambush.

The brainchild of the Students Arts Council, the Arts Ambush was put on to make non-Arts students more aware of the School of the Arts. This goal was accomplished. "It was nice seeing the arts outside the School of the Arts buildings and displayed somewhere else on campus," said sophomore physics major Stevie Carnell. "I like how the School of the Arts is broadcasting itself to the rest of Samford, because they used to be so secluded." After the Arts Ambush, any student who wasn't aware of the happenings inside the School of the Arts had certainly discovered all the talent its students had to offer.

Each branch of the School of the Arts was involved in the Arts Ambush. From the music department, members of the Jazz Band performed on the Quad. A string quartet played outside the University Center in Ben Brown Plaza. In the food court, students from the Opera Club sang scenes from various operas.

Another goal of the Students Arts Council was to encourage students to get involved in the School of the Arts. The theater department took involvement seriously, staging sword fights among students, Arts and non-Arts students alike, in Ben Brown.

Visual arts were also represented across campus in the form of "art cones," decorated traffic cones strategically placed around the University, along with transparent, life-sized sculptures of students. Students could interact with art by helping to create a quilt or by decorating their own cupcakes in the cafeteria.

The Department of Interior Architecture, a new addition to the School of the Arts, created a hands-on station in Ben Brown where students could help design a structure by adding cardboard boxes to the existing product.

All in all, the Arts Ambush was a success. "It was a great occasion that demonstrated the talents of our school and invited the Samford Campus to get involved in the Arts," said Dean of the School of the Arts Joseph Hopkins. "As always, I am proud of our students and the way they represent the School of the Arts."

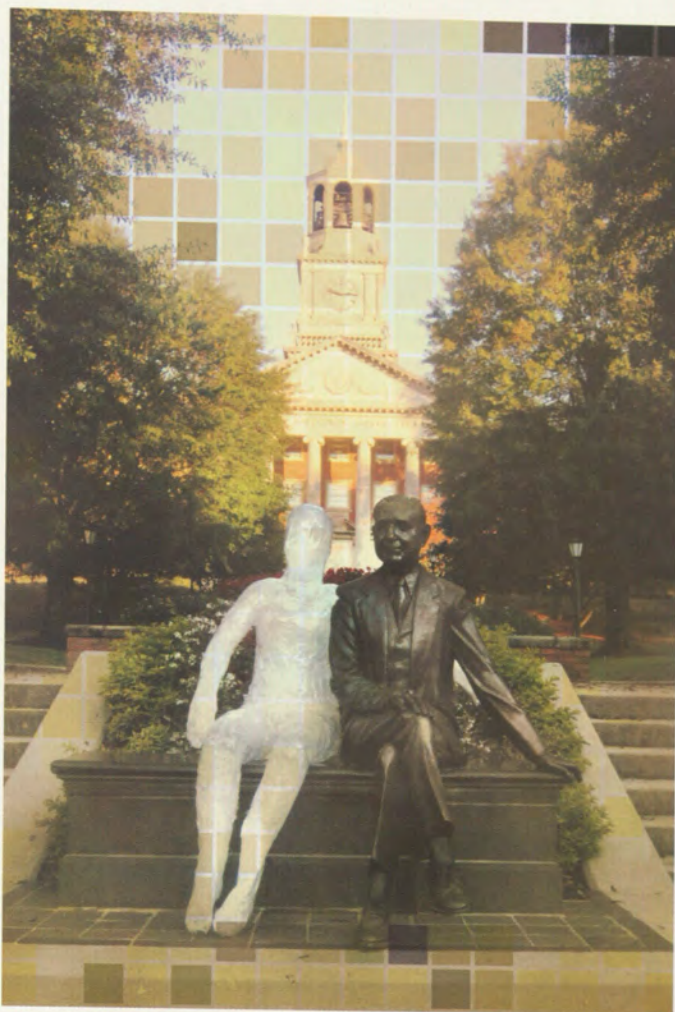
Students eagerly waited to see what the School of the Arts would come up with next.

Can you see it? Fine Arts professor Larry Thompson created this "Arts+Am+Bush" sculpture specifically for the event.





From stage fighting to live music, fine art students like junior Shawn van Horne were able to display their art for all to see and enjoy.



Though the Fine Arts department was located in one corner of the quad, Arts Ambush let fine art students display their art throughout the Quad and in Ben Brown.





Not everyone has the opportunity to wear a Samford uniform. It is the students who take on the hours of endless practices, the pressure of game day hype, that receive this coveted honor. As athletes take to the field, the rest of us gather in the stands. And as the marching band begins the fight song, an overwhelming sense of pride is declared from the stands. Fight, fight, fight, Samford bulldogs, fight! With the victory flag flying above us, we are reminded to always push onward to victory.

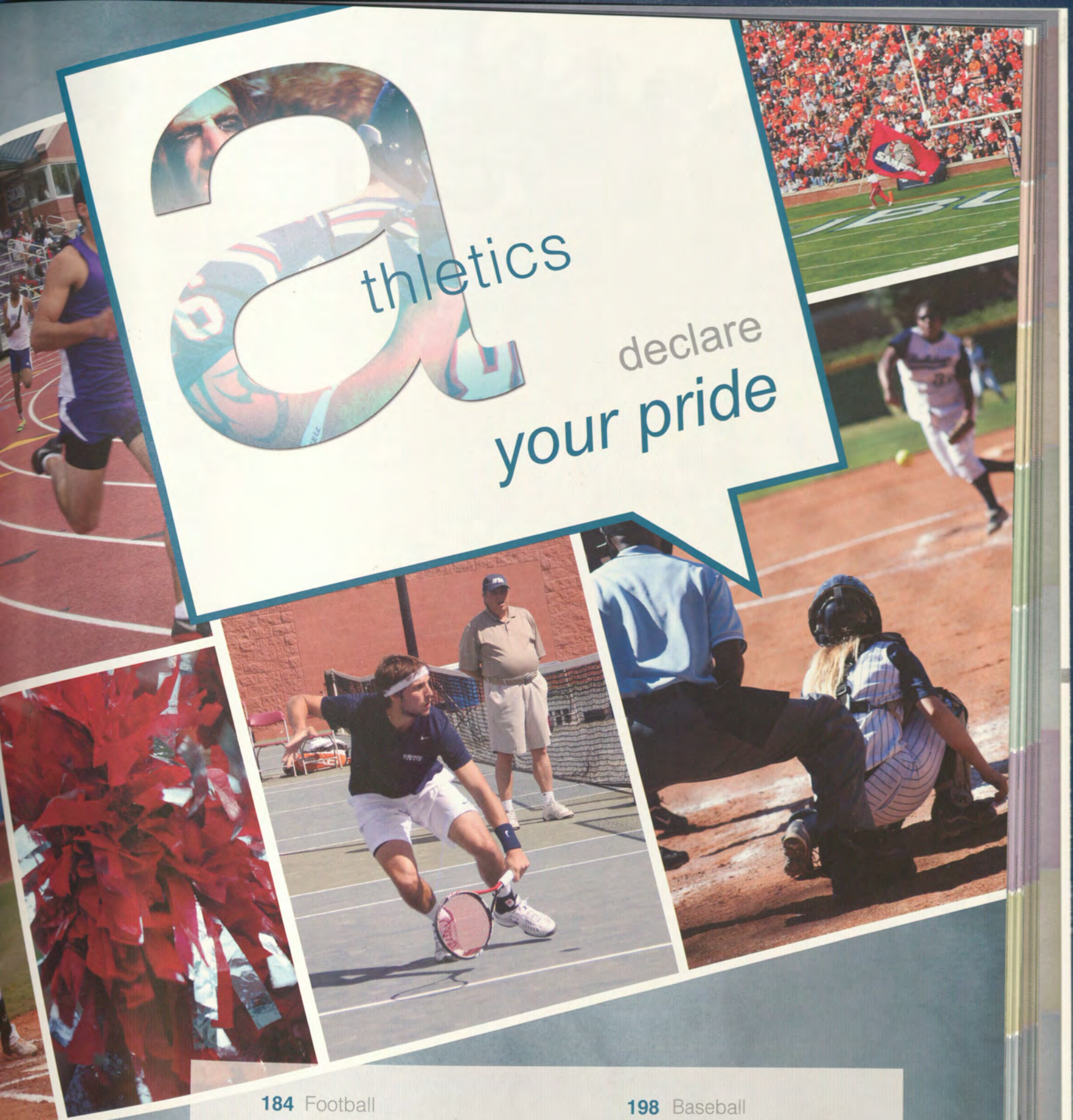


athletics

a

thletics

declare
your pride



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football

coming together for a winning season



Sophomore running back Fabian Truss ran in for a touchdown.



by Clayton Hurdle

In 2011, the football team finished the season with a 6-5 record, winning more games than they lost for the first time since 2008. The Bulldogs, led by new offensive coordinator Rhett Lashlee, rode a fast-paced offense and a strong defense to a 4-4 record in Southern Conference games, two games better than in 2010. The Bulldogs also won two road conference games in a season for the first time since the team's inaugural SoCon season in 2008.

The Bulldogs' offense saw a vast improvement from last year. The Bulldogs scored 40 or more points in four games, all wins, this season. Sophomore running back Fabian Truss rushed for over 900 yards in his first season as a starter and was named SoCon Player of the Week twice, once each for offense and special teams.

Defensively, the Bulldogs were led by defensive backs Alvin Hines, Omar Johnson and Corey White, linebackers Justin Shade, Keith Shoulders and Darion Sutton, and senior defensive linemen Alex Davis and Austin Hayes. The Bulldogs' defense allowed 21 points a game this season, and held every opponent to less than 40 points.

The season started with a 31-17 home loss to third-ranked Georgia Southern. The Bulldogs then won four of their next five games, including a 26-21 road win against the Furman Paladins. The Furman game ranked among the players as one of the most memorable games of the season. "That game I felt like of something much greater than a team," said freshman religion major and redshirt tight end Sidney Jordan. "It propelled us into an awesome end to our season." In the last conference game of the season, the Bulldogs scored 19 unanswered points to come from behind and win against the Citadel. The Bulldogs closed out the season as Auburn's homecoming opponent.

The Bulldogs came together as never before. Fabian Truss, a sophomore sports administration major, and Jordan both felt a strong sense of family in the 2011 Bulldogs. "In the past, this team didn't seem like a family, but this year we really came together," said Truss. Although they didn't achieve every goal they had set, the young team will look to players like Hines and Truss to capitalize on the 2011 winning season going into next year. "The team is a work in progress," said head coach Pat Sullivan. "Our staff has been great, and I'm pleased that we're headed in the right direction."

The Red Sea coordinated a complete white out in the stands in support of the team.



Mike Ralrick was one of the many freshmen who suited up and joined the team for a successful season.



Samford plays

auburn

Bulldogs meet Tigers in football

by Madi Dominescy

Many University students made trips down to Auburn to spend part of their Saturday in Jordan Hare stadium, and on November 19, University students journeyed to Auburn to watch the Bulldogs play the Tigers for their homecoming football game. Excitement spread around campus in the weeks before the upcoming game against the major SEC school.

Phillip Ketcham, a sophomore secondary education major, said the team was as prepared for the game as they always are. "I would say that we as a team prepared for this game verse Auburn just like any other week before," said Ketcham. "We expected to win and did not view this game as a 'money game' where we were the sacrificial lamb to the big SEC school."

The entire team played one of our best games of the year, but we were not able to pull through in the end. I think our football program gained a lot of respect from the way we played, and it will be a memory that I will never forget.

Dustin Taliaferro

Prior to the game, Auburn honored the University's head coach Pat Sullivan on the field for his dedication and contribution to Auburn University over the years. They honored his time spent as a quarterback at Auburn and the fortieth anniversary of his Heisman Trophy win in 1971 as Auburn's first Heisman winner. "I think as a team it was special because Coach Sullivan was honored for his achievements at Auburn University," said Ketcham.

In Jordan Hare stadium that afternoon, students watched a different game unfold than they had anticipated. The Bulldogs arrived in Auburn prepared, rested and ready to play. "The opening kickoff was pretty exciting, but after the first couple of plays, the adrenaline went away and it became the game that we all have been playing since we were little kids in the backyard," said Zeke Walters, a sophomore secondary education major.

In the second quarter, the University matched Auburn's first touchdown, causing uproar among the Bulldog student section. The first half ended with the Tigers in lead 14-10. The Bulldogs came back strong at the beginning of the third quarter, completing another field goal and making the score 14-13. The fourth quarter included two Auburn touchdowns and a Bulldog field goal.

Although the game ended with a Tiger victory 35-16, Dustin Taliaferro, a senior accounting and finance major and Bulldog quarterback, said he had a great experience. "Playing Auburn was a great experience and opportunity for our team. We don't get the chance to play in that kind of atmosphere against that type of talent very often, so we just wanted to make the most of the opportunity and have fun," he said. "The entire team played one of our best games of the year, but we were not able to pull through in the end. I think our football program gained a lot of respect from the way we played, and it will be a memory that I will never forget."

The game against the Tigers ended the Bulldogs season with a 6-5 overall record and a 4-4 record in the Southern Conference.





Hilliary Hallman and Julianna Hallman were thrilled with the halftime score of 14 -10, even though the bulldogs didn't take the victory in the end.



Students traveled to Auburn in their red and blue to cheer on the football team as they took on the SEC team.

cheerleaders

Eat, sleep, study, cheer



by Maitlyn Mullen

The 2011-2012 Samford cheerleaders, under Coach Lauren Hughston, loved interacting with the crowd. The cheerleaders tried to involve the crowd as much as possible.

"I really enjoy getting the crowd involved with our cheers," said freshman communication studies major Katie Woodruff. "It pumps up the football team and helps make the games exciting. We work hard on our skills."

The cheerleaders' daily routine began with one to two hours of conditioning in the morning. After classes, they practiced learning over 28 cheers to perform for the football and basketball seasons, working on new and exciting tumbling routines while conditioning in the evening.

Many hours were dedicated to striving and perfecting thrilling lifts, stunts and pyramids. However, the girls still had time for other activities, such as helping the freshmen on move-in day and hosting a car wash.

"Cheerleading can be compared to any other sport," said Woodruff. "We condition and train just like any other team at Samford. This season has been hard, but I believe the hard work is paying off because we have a really talented team."

The cheerleaders offered a Host Clinic on October 15 in Seibert Gym. Girls aged 4 to 11 were invited to come and learn the cheers. Also, the cheerleaders traveled to the first ever Samford v. Auburn football game.

The cheerleaders had good relationships and trusted one another as they strived to perform difficult routines. "This is the best cheerleading team ever," said freshman nursing major Bethany Patton. "Everyone gets along great. I am so glad I am a part of it."

athletics

bulldog dancers

Live to dance

by Maitlyn Mullen



Katie Olgbery and Audra Faust kept the crowd pumped in between plays.



Dance is a way of life. It is a revolution. The group of nine Bulldog Dancers expressed themselves through dance by taking it to the next level under advisor Lauren McCaghren and team captains Julie Cobb and Jordy Allen.

"We love dancing," said senior family studies major Audra Faust. "The girls really just want to have a good time dancing and cheering on the Samford football team." It was Faust's fourth year to participate on the Bulldog Dancers team and her 15th year of dancing altogether.

In order to get ready for the football and basketball seasons, the Bulldog Dancers practiced every week. The dancers worked on technical dance elements such as right and left pirouettes and different types of leaps, and they also learned three or four dances to perform at games and other events. "My favorite dance routine is performed to the song 'Another One Bites the Dust,'" said Faust.

The dancers did something new this year by participating in the Bulldog Walk before the football games. In addition to dancing on the sidelines during the football games and during the halftime portion of the basketball games, the Bulldog Dancers performed a dance routine as part of the annual Step Sing tradition.

The Bulldog Dancers also traveled to the Samford versus Auburn football game. The Bulldog Dancers were extremely excited because they had never traveled to an away game. "This could not have been a better year," said senior elementary education major Julie Cobb. "All the dancers have met our expectations and we could not be happier."





volleyball

Serving up a SoCon Championship

by Dannelly Farrow



The volleyball team had an outstanding season full of accomplishments, ranging from Elizabeth Neisler being named SoCon Player of the Year to the entire team winning the Southern Conference championship.

Neisler, a junior exercise science major, played outside hitter. Being named SoCon Player of the Year was an amazing honor to have a Bulldog player be represented on such a large scale—the entire Southern Conference. By being an exceptional player, she helped her team win the Southern Conference Championship for the first time in this school's history for the volleyball team.

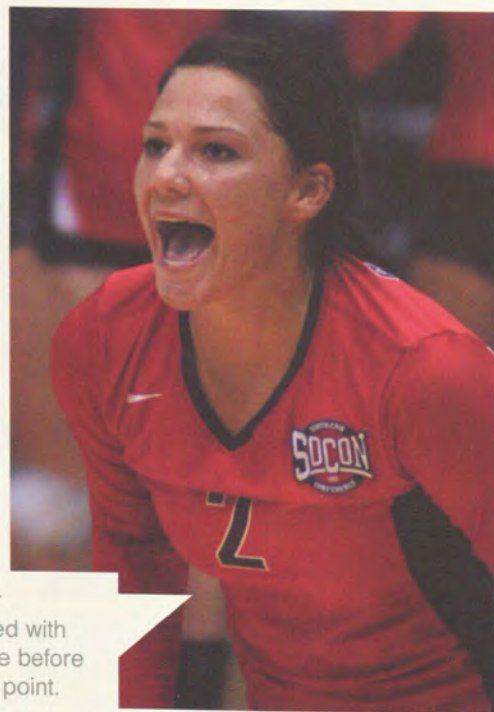
Neisler was not the only one to stand out during the SoCon tournament. Junior Alexis Bau-

er was named Tournament Most Outstanding Player. Bauer was an exercise science major and played defensive specialist for the team. Every girl on the team played an important role when it came to having the opportunity to win the SoCon championship. Not only did each of them bring something different to form this winning team, but this championship also meant something different to every one of these players. To freshman biology major Amanda Moritz, this championship meant “that we have to stay hungry and stay humble to get another championship next year.”

These girls understood the sacrifices and the effort that was put into winning this championship. To the senior volleyball players, this SoCon Championship not only defined the current season but their entire four years as volleyball players at the University. There was even an honorary victory flag raised on the University's campus after the win to congratulate the team. Every game and every practice this entire season has had this ultimate goal in mind.

It was obvious that through their dedication and endless hours of practice, the players' hard work paid off.

athletics
athletics

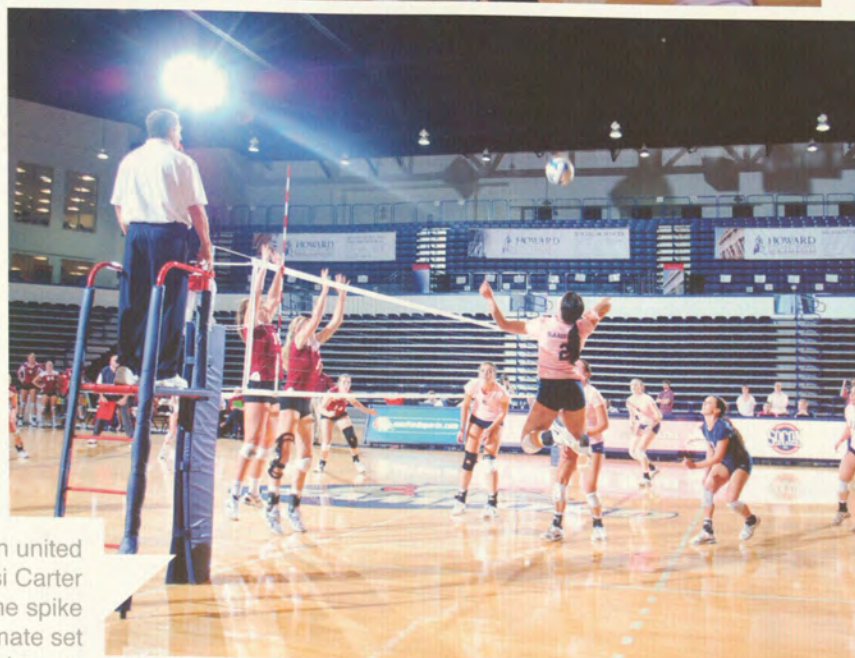


Chelsi Carter communicated with her teammate before the start of a point.



They never lost momentum and stayed focused, knowing what this championship would mean for them but also for their coach, Derek Schroeder, and for the University as a whole.

In order to become the first volleyball team at Samford to win the SoCon Championship, they had a have an excellent season to be able to become champions. They had high hopes from the very beginning of the season, after previously winning the SoCon North title in 2008 and 2009. The team wanted this year to finally be their year for the big win. Every girl on the team came from an extremely talented background, and Coach Schroeder knew it would be a winning combination.



Playing as an united front, Chelsi Carter goes up for the spike after her teammate set her up.

Women's soccer

Southern Conference Champions

by Dannelly Farrow

The women's soccer team had an unbelievable season. They also had a new addition to enjoy with a brand new soccer stadium. This new stadium was finished in summer 2011, complete with locker rooms, a ticket office and brand new press box. The state-of-the-art stadium was designed with the goal in mind that the University's sport teams would excel, which they definitely accomplished.

The team's schedule ranged from playing Auburn and Vanderbilt to playing UAB, and the women played their absolute best every single game. Not only did they finish with a victory of 14-5-2, but they also won the Southern Conference Championship. This was the University's first title since joining the Southern Conference in 2008 in the championship game against College of Charleston in an exciting 1-0 win.

The team also had the opportunity to advance to the NCAA Tournament, which was the Bulldogs' third time to appear in this tournament since 2005. The Bulldogs took on eighth-ranked Florida State in Tallahassee, Fla. where they played hard and showed their true sportsmen-like skills, even with a loss of 2-0.

The Southern Championship meant so much to each and every player, especially those who played in their

last season, including Lindsay Matern, a senior elementary education major. "The Southern Conference Championship is one of my biggest accomplishments and a dream come true. The team this year is incredible and we are such a family," said Matern. "It was great that everyone had one goal to win this championship and would not give up until we made that happen."

The women had a great season, but they also became a family. Freshman undeclared major Joy Grove played midfielder and said she had an unbelievable experience during her short time on the women's soccer team so far. "It has been such an honor to play with these girls day in and day out, I sometimes have to pinch myself that I'm not only playing soccer in college but for such an amazing team as well," said Grove. "If everyone on the team wasn't as close as we are, the Southern Conference Championship would have been out of the question."

Overall, the University was proud to call the women's soccer team one of their own and looked forward to seeing future goals being accomplish, as well as scored.

athletics



Forward Kaley Blanton took control of the ball in a game against Davidson.



The team huddled before each game, giving last minutes words of encouragement and support.



Men's basketball

Improving with young stars

by Clayton Hurdle

Men's basketball exceeded expectations with a group of experienced seniors and talented freshmen this year.

In what was Athletic Director Martin Newton's first season and what would be long-time head coach Jimmy Tillette's last, the Bulldogs finished the season with a record of 11-19. The team's 8-10 conference mark was good enough for a fourth-place finish in the SoCon's north division, two spots ahead of last year.

"We had some ups and downs throughout the year, but it was a positive one," said freshman point guard and undeclared major Rajion Kelly.

Seniors Matthew Friday, Kaylin Johnson, Jeffrey Merritt and John Peterson led the way for the Bulldogs this sea-

son. Merritt, the last of three brothers to play basketball for the Bulldogs over the past decade, led the Bulldogs in rebounding this season with 6.7 per game. The six-foot-six guard also recorded 8.3 points per game, the most among this year's senior class, and led the team with 3.5 assists per game.

"The seniors were helpful in our learning process," said Kelly. "They were always there for advice and anything else."

Injuries plagued the Bulldogs throughout the season. Junior family studies major and point guard Gregg Wooten suffered a season-ending leg injury during pre-season practice, and senior public administration major and forward John Peterson hurt his arm early in the season.



athletics

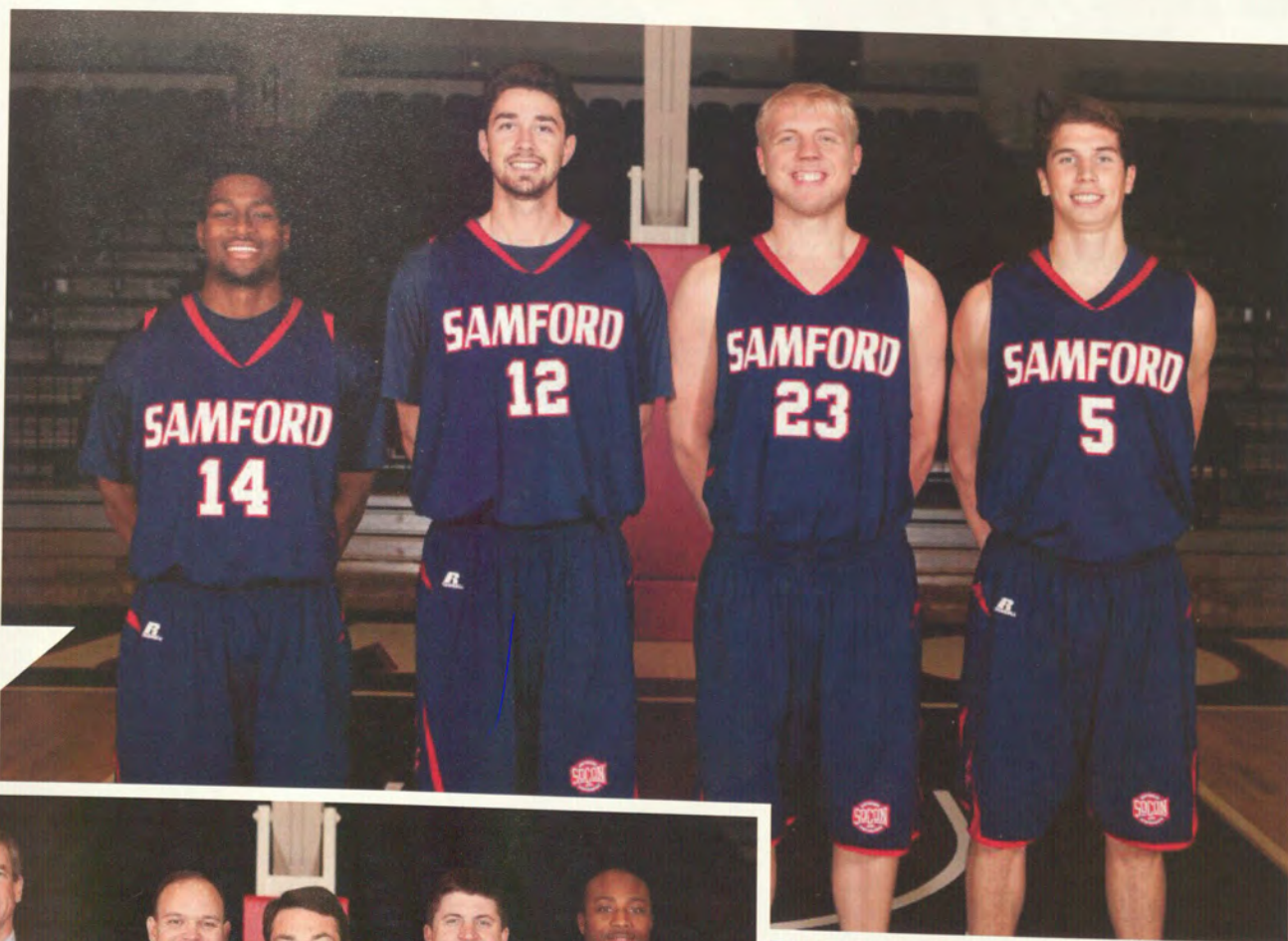
"Because we were young and had a lot of freshmen getting to play, we started off poorly," said Merritt, a business management major. "As the season went along, we started playing better together. We had better chemistry and the younger guys stepped up."

After starting the season with a 4-12 mark, the Bulldogs went 7-7 down the stretch, including an upset win against eventual conference champion Davidson and big home wins against Elon and Furman. "The win against Davidson gave us a lot of confidence throughout the rest of the year," said Kelly. "That translated into some more victories."

The season ended in disappointment as the Bulldogs lost in the first round of the SoCon tournament to Furman. Not long afterward, Tillette was dismissed after 15 seasons as the Bulldogs's head coach. The team was still filled with confidence in Newton's decisions for the coaching staff next season.

"We have a young group coming back, and next year we will be taken more seriously throughout our conference," said Kelly.

On April 5, the Bulldogs welcomed Bennie Seltzer as their new head coach. Then, they were able start building toward another memorable year.



Kaylin Johnson, John Peterson, Matthew Friday and Jeffrey Merritt were the only seniors on the relatively young team.



Women's basketball

A double dose of SoCon glory



by Clayton Hurdle

The Lady Bulldogs basketball team was still the defending Southern Conference champion. While the Bulldogs did not face quite as much success as they did last year, they played well enough down the stretch to win their second straight SoCon title and finish with their fifth-straight 20-win season.

"We had games where we did not play like we knew we could, but going into the tournament we knew we had to give it all we had every second we were on the court," said sophomore guard and sport administration major Shelby Campbell. "I really believe that is what we did."

The season had its ups and downs for the Bulldogs, who finished the season with a 20-12 record. Over the course of the season, the longest winning streak the Bulldogs maintained was four games.

"I knew it wasn't going to be easy," said senior guard and family studies major Jazmine Powers. "We had lost two really good seniors the year before who had led us to our first championship. People did not expect us to

accomplish much without them. What made this team so special was how hard we worked."

The Bulldogs were able to secure a first-round bye in the conference tournament as the fourth seed. Double-digit wins against Elon and first-place Davidson led Samford to its third straight SoCon championship appearance. The championship was the Bulldogs' second straight against Appalachian State.

The University started out strong in the championship, converting a seven-point halftime lead into a final score of 54-43. Campbell was named the tournament's most outstanding player and junior Jazmine Martin joined her on the all-tournament team.

"Getting MVP was an honor and a blessing," said Campbell. "But I would have been just as happy not getting MVP and us just winning like we did."

Two constant themes for the Bulldogs this year were senior leadership and team chemistry. Paige Anderson, J'Quita Babineaux, Ruth Ketcham and Powers provided leadership for younger players.

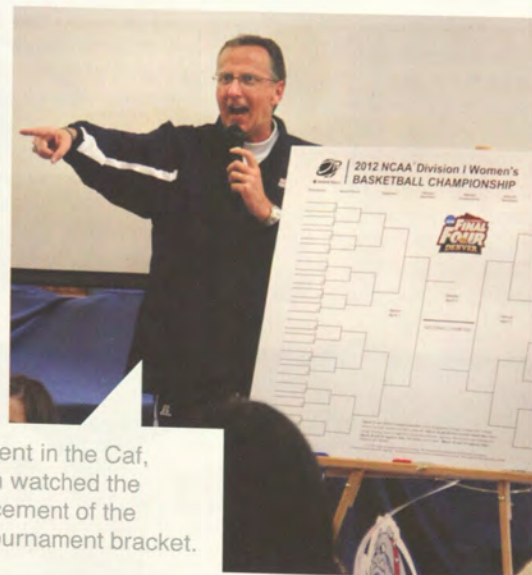
"The thing that sticks out to me was how much I felt like a team mom," said Anderson, a senior guard and accounting major. "I felt responsible for my teammates when they were having a bad day and needed to talk. I would feel so proud when somebody played really well."

Campbell said the team got along really well. "They were literally all like sisters to me," said Campbell. "I think that is what brought us all together at the end of the year and made us able to come back and win again."



With the support of her parents, Hannah Dawson celebrated the SoCon championship win.





At an event in the Caf, the team watched the announcement of the NCAA tournament bracket.



Ruth Ketcham took a shot during a game against Davidson.



The season was one of ups and downs, but the Bulldogs never gave up. With pride and determination, they made the season historic. After winning the first-ever SoCon championship in University baseball history, the team traveled to Tallahassee for their first-ever NCAA tournament appearance. They beat the Southern Conference champions Mississippi State not once but twice. The team reached a record 41 wins, yet their season finally came to an end after a 5-2 loss to Florida State. Brandon Miller, the nation's leading homerun hitter, was named to the tournament's All-Regional Team, along with Charles Basford and C.K. Irby.



The team recognized breast cancer awareness month by wearing pink uniforms to support the cause.



Joseph Burns played pitcher during his senior season.



Phillip Flach waited in the dugout for his turn to pitch.



baseball

Bulldogs played a season filled with surprises

by Amy Vu

The University baseball team, comprised of 37 men, traveled all over the south this spring in order to compete against schools from Georgia Southern to Penn State, all under head coach Casey Dunn's leadership.

The Bulldogs had their third straight win against Auburn, with sophomore center Phillip Ervin hitting a walk-off grand slam at the bottom of the ninth inning. "That was an unbelievable game," said Coach Dunn. "What a night Phillip had. He is truly a guy who delivers on the big stage. He's a guy who, the bigger the game, the better he performs."

The boys also pulled a 7-3 win against Alabama A&M and pulled an 11-4 sweep against Wofford. However, the season was filled with ups as well as downs. The Bulldogs were swept by Elon, falling 5-3 in 18 innings. The Bulldogs then dropped game three of the series, 7-5. With the wins, Elon earned the sweep of the series with the Bulldogs.

Despite their heavy loss against Elon, the team continued to have the spirit to play as one team. "We are a highly dedicated team that is trying to make Samford history," said senior outfielder and communication studies major Brandon Miller. "We want to be remembered as the greatest baseball team in Samford history. All our success has come from God, good coaching and hard work."

The team was heavily made up of freshmen as well as an impressive group of seniors, including Brad Moss, pitcher Charles Basford, outfielder Kevin Putkonen, pitcher Kyle Putkonen, infielder Saxon Butler, pitcher Michael Gunter and pitcher Josh Martin among others. Saxon Butler was named the Southern Conference's Player of the Month for February. Butler hit .500 (17-for-34) for the Bulldogs in nine games in the month of February. The senior produced multiple hits in six of the team's nine games in the month.

Despite having such a strong representation of the most experienced college baseball players and the least experienced, the team's dynamic helped them encourage each other throughout the season.

"Everyone knows their role and is willing to fill that role when they are needed," said Miller. "It does not matter if you sit the bench or are the guy that the team looks to in a big situation. We all work as one."



Zeth Stone slid into home base while Christian Durdaller looked on.





"We have had some bumps in the road, but I believe if we continue to work hard, with Coach Mandy's leadership, Samford softball is on its way to big things. I feel like we are going to peak at just the right time so that we can dominate the Southern Conference."

Robyn Harmon

softball

Softball thrived under new coach

by Clayton Hurdle

The Bulldog softball team took the field this year under new leadership. Mandy Burford, formerly an assistant coach for the Bulldogs, took over the team and hired several new assistants to help out this year. "Coach Mandy, Coach Ashley (Bell) and Coach Brandon (Duncan) are such great assets to the program," said senior pitcher/infielder and biology major Robyn Harmon. "They all bring fresh new ideas to the field and we are all working hard to incorporate their instructions into our games."

The Bulldogs said goodbye to five seniors from last year, including pitcher Kayla Burris and four-year starting infielder Amanda Jordan. To fill the leadership role in 2012, Burford looked to seniors Tessa Frates and Robyn Harmon, as well as a group of five juniors.

"As a senior, my time is winding down, and I know what I will miss most of all is the camaraderie of the team," said Harmon. "With only two seniors this season, we are a young team. However, our five freshmen have stepped up into starting roles, which speaks volumes for the talent that Coach Mandy has recruited."

Young talent such as freshmen Madison Dickey and Rachel Bickert made a great deal of difference for the softball team this year. Bickert, an infielder from Mobile, Ala., contributed many home runs for the Bulldogs this year, and Dickey was a utility star who had the first two-home run game for the Bulldogs in almost a year in

a March game against Georgia Southern. Another young star for the Bulldogs this year was pitcher Nicole Bobrowski, who started, relieved and closed at various times on the mound. Bobrowski also was a stellar infielder for the Bulldogs.

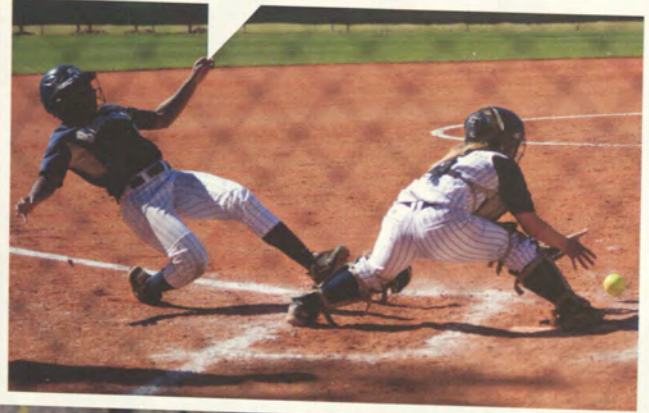
After a successful fall preseason, the Bulldog softball team had a dominating 4-0 win against South Dakota to open the season. "We were all so pumped and ready to get out on the field," said Dickey. "We hit and played really well." Throughout the season, the softball team's motto was, "Dominate." "The girls really took it to heart," Coach Burford said.

"Since we started working out in August, the entire coaching staff has instilled this motto into all of our practices, workouts and games," said Harmon. "We have had some bumps in the road, but I believe if we continue to work hard, with Coach Mandy's leadership, Samford softball is on its way to big things. I feel like we are going to peak at just the right time so that we can dominate the Southern Conference."

Misha Aldridge pitched the ball while her teammates stood ready in the outfield.



Alex Adams caught the ball to avoid a run from the other team.



Off the field, the team bonded through events like a team tailgate before a University football game.



track

Breaking a sweat and setting new records



Teammates waited for the results at a home track meet.



by Amy Vu

The Bulldogs set many new track and field records, making for an extremely successful season under head coach Rod Tiffin and assistant coaches Lori Strand (distance), Keith Baker (throws), and Clinton Fletcher (sprints and jumps). Among the highlights of the season were new practice facility additions.

On the men's team, senior Michael Seaman entered the 2012 season as the 34th-ranked pole vaulter in the nation according to a pre-season poll. Seaman said the highlight of the season was breaking his own school record at the UAB Blazer Invite. He also placed sixth in the men's pole vault at the NCAA Indoor Championships in March and was named the SoCon Men's Track Athlete of the Month for February.

At the UAB Blazer Invite, junior Claire Goodson set a new school and facility record in the pole vault. Freshman Anna Laura Irvine made her collegiate debut in the 800 meters at the invite, winning her heat and placing third overall,

ranking her 10th all-time at the University. Junior Emily Allen added new school records in women's weight throw and long jump, and freshman Katelyn Poole placed sixth in shot put at the Alabama Relays, setting the school record on her fourth throw.

The Bulldogs also participated in the SoCon Outdoor Championships in April, with jumper Bob Elliot II receiving the award of men's freshman of the year and Emily Allen being named the women's MVP. Ashley Cope was the Bulldogs' sole champion for the weekend, as she held on to win her second-consecutive outdoor heptathlon title with 4,743 points.

Katelyn Poole set a new school record in the women's shot put, placing sixth at the championships. Sophomore exercise science major Shelby Bulta added yet another top-eight finish on Sunday, placing sixth in the women's discus. Bulta, who has competed with the track and field team since her freshman year, was truly proud of the team this year. "The track and field program has really been blessed this year with a fantastic facility. It has really helped to give our athletes a great place to develop their abilities and strive for perfection. Without the track and our committed coaching staff, we wouldn't have been able to have the great success we display each week," said Bulta.

Junior pre-business major Brad Bostic, who participated on the men's team, agreed. "Samford has had a great indoor and outdoor season. Thanks to our coaching staff," said Bostic.



athletics

cross country

Bulldogs run the show

by Amy Vu

Student athletes were known for their hard work, dedication to the game and sense of competition, but for one sport in particular, this sense of overall sportsmanship was paired with fun and a love for what these athletes do best – run. The University's teams worked hard, trained well and kept up a positive attitude at the same time.

Coach Lori Strand, an assistant coach for the teams, said that 2011 brought with it many injuries that the runners had to deal with. However, she attributed the teams' relative success to a great attitude and guidance under top women's runner Lauren D'Alessio, a junior nutrition and dietetics major from Pelham, Alabama. "Our players have done a good job at staying healthy and staying positive, especially the boys' team which only had five runners this year due to a few injuries," said Strand.

Nicholas Cork was a sophomore exercise science major who enjoyed his time on the men's team. What made being on the team fun for him was "getting to compete in college, traveling to race, and getting to know my teammates better," said Cork.

The team competed in two major competitions in the fall. In October, they traveled to Southern Conference Championships in Charleston, South Carolina. Lead runner D'Alessio came in second. Holly Benson, a junior nursing major whom Coach Strand said had a "good and steady season," also placed by crossing the line eighteenth overall. As for the teams overall, the women's

team finished seventh in the 5k and the men finished 11th in the 8k.

In November, both teams competed in the NCAA South Regional at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Lauren D'Alessio placed fourteenth in the 6k.

"The guy's cross country team struggled with injuries and illnesses this past season, but we grew closer as a team and began to run for each other," said James Graham, a sophomore pre-business major and runner for the men's team. "Although we didn't finish as strongly at conference as we had hoped, we look forward to next season with everybody being injury free, along with the return and addition of runners."

As for both teams, Coach Strand said he was hopeful that next season would bring the same, if not better, results. "As long as the runners are healthy and feel good about their performance, then I have faith that they will be okay."



The woman's cross country team had a little fun, wearing their running shoes during a night out.



Men's tennis

Serving up success

by Clayton Hurdle

The University's men's tennis team won its first ever share of the SoCon's regular season title under first-year head coach Rahim Esmail.

Although losing out in the tournament championship to College of Charleston, the 2012 season was considered a major success for the Bulldogs. The eight-man squad consisted of three seniors, two juniors and three sophomores.

"Our team has great chemistry," said junior sports medicine major Zac Dunkle. "All of our personalities blend well together and we all know how to get each other ready for matches. Because our team gets along

so well together we have an edge over most of the other teams we play against. Not only do we want to win for ourselves, but for each other."

The team finished with a 9-1 record in the SoCon this year over the regular season, which tied them with College of Charleston for the best conference mark. The Bulldogs and Cougars also finished with identical 15-4 overall records.

The Bulldogs' tournament against Georgia Southern and Chattanooga improved the team's overall record to 17-4. The easy wins of 4-1 and 4-2, respectively, set up a championship showdown with Charleston, the tournament's host school.



Elliot Barnwell celebrated with a teammate after a winning point.



athletics

Although the individual points were all highly contested, Charleston came away with a 4-0 victory over the Bulldogs. "We had the momentum on five singles courts for a while so I thought we were going to win," said Dunkle. "They managed to turn the momentum back in their favor."

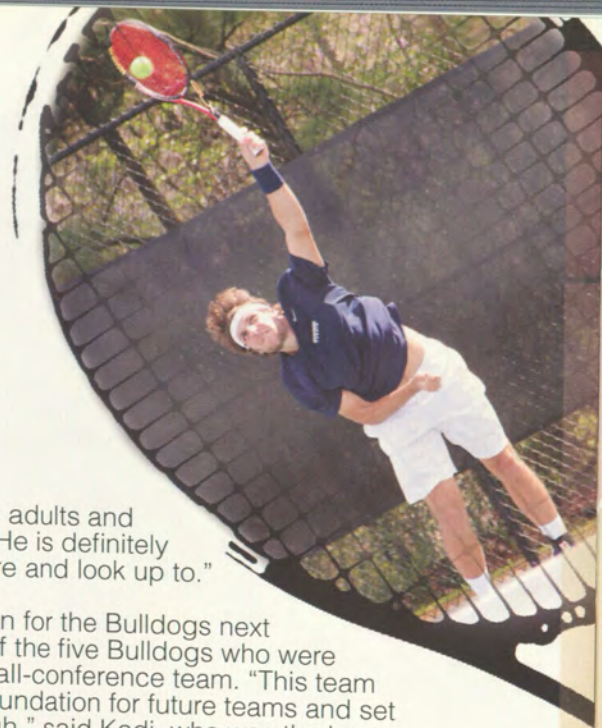
Despite the tournament loss, the season was full of achievements for the Bulldogs and head coach Esmail. The 17-5 record attained by the Bulldogs was one of the best season records in school history. Five team members were named to the all-SoCon team.

"I was extremely fortunate to have Coach Esmail for my senior year," said senior biology major Carson Kadi. "He helped me grow not only as a tennis player but also as

a man. He treated us adults and earned our respect. He is definitely someone that I admire and look up to."

Five players will return for the Bulldogs next year, including four of the five Bulldogs who were named to this year's all-conference team. "This team has helped lay the foundation for future teams and set the standard very high," said Kadi, who was the lone senior among that group.

The memorable season for the men's tennis team certainly set the bar for future Bulldogs tennis teams.



Zac Dunkle hit an overhead during a home match.



Ryan Shidler stood ready for a return volley.



Women's tennis

Women's tennis team lived up to their record

by Maitlyn Mullen

The Bulldog women's tennis team competed in fourteen home matches and six away matches, as well as in the Southern Conference Tournament.

The team's competition included Middle Tennessee State, Louisiana-Lafayette, Austin Peay, Jacksonville State, South Alabama, Southern Miss, UAB, UTSA, Georgia State, College of Charleston, Georgia Southern, UNCG, Elon, Western Carolina, Furman, Wofford, Davidson, Appalachian State, Troy and Chattanooga. The team dominated in their SoCon region by a 5-0 lead. Their home scores were 9-3 and their away scores were 2-2.

The team had six remaining players and three new players under the direction of Coach David Vest, who coached the team for his fourth year. The returning players were Madelie Janse Van Rensburg, Rebecca Kirven, Kristin Lewis, Lindsey Mallory, Jessica Diamond and Emily Mallory. They were joined by the three freshmen Adri Lochner, Ann Marie Lyon and Stephanie N'tcha.

Kristin Lewis, a junior interior design major, had a great experience on the team. "My expectations for the new comers on the team have been high," said Lewis. "We are a very close and play great as a team."

Lewis was one of the stars on the team. She was named the Southern Conference's Women's Tennis Player of the Week, and she had a great record in both singles and doubles. During the week of the SoCon tournament, she competed at number one in singles for the team, accompanying business graduate student Lindsey Mallory at the number one doubles spot for the tennis team.

Along with participating in competitions, the team helped host the Samford Nike Tennis Camp. Coach Vest and the players taught boys and girls, ages 9 to 18-years-old, basic instructions.

Taylor Morgan, a former member of the women's tennis team, served as the graduate assistant coach. "This team has had a great start on the year," said Morgan. "After losing their number one and two players from last year, all the other girls have really stepped up and taken on more responsibility while performing well."

Doubles partners worked together to return the volley and continue the point.

athletics





Madelie Janse Van Rensburg celebrated with teammate Rebecca Kirven.



Emily Mallory served the ball with all her strength.



Mens and Womens

golf

Golf teams ranked high in national tournaments

by Amy Vu

Both of the University's golf teams represented well at area tournaments this past year, raking in many awards for having a relatively small pool of students.

The men's golf team, comprised mostly of juniors, represented the University well at events mostly held in North and South Carolina. Except for their spring Samford Invitational, the team traveled to away tournaments.

On October 31, the team carded an opening-round score of 290 following 18 holes of competition at the Hummingbird Intercollegiate Tournament hosted by Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina. Overall, the golf team placed eighth at the Hummingbird Intercollegiate. True freshman Zach Hughes finished tied for 21st place in the individual standings.

In the spring, the golf team competed in the Wexford Plantation Intercollegiate Tournament in Florence, South Carolina. The men's team concluded the three-round tournament with a total team score of 923, only seven strokes out of seventh place. The team also competed in the Francis Marion Invite in Florence, South Carolina, where they placed second on both days. After day three at the Mason Rudolph Championship in Franklin, Tennessee, they placed third.

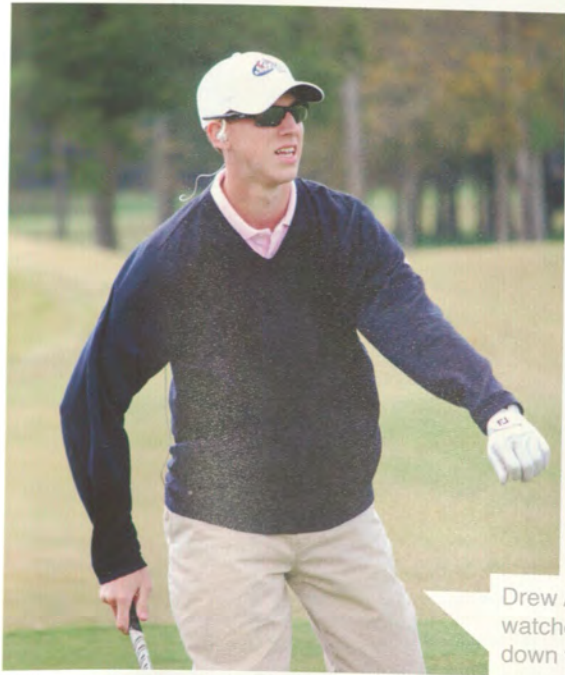
The women's team competed in tournaments around the country, traveling to Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Arkansas and even Idaho. The team was in the top five teams at the Lady Paladin Invitational in October in Greenville, N.C., with freshman Emily Stallings finishing tied for fourteenth place in the individual standings.

In late February, the women's team took third place at the USA Lady Jaguar Invitational. There, junior Kayla Turner earned eleventh place. Soon after that, the ladies headed off to the JMU/Eagle Landing Invitational in Mobile, Alabama. The Bulldogs completed the invitational with four girls ranked among the top fifteen.

"I am so blessed to be a part of this team of girls," said sophomore education major Natalie Mitchell. "We are all so different, which makes things a lot more interesting. There is never a dull moment."

The golf team was not as well known to students as other athletic teams, but it began to grow. "We are coming off a fourth place finish at the SoCon Championship last year and we are returning a lot of key players. It's just a matter of time before we play to our full potential and start winning, because our team is very talented," said junior sports administration major Drew Aimone. "I feel like we are a little under the radar going into the spring season and we can really surprise people and make a run at the NCAA."





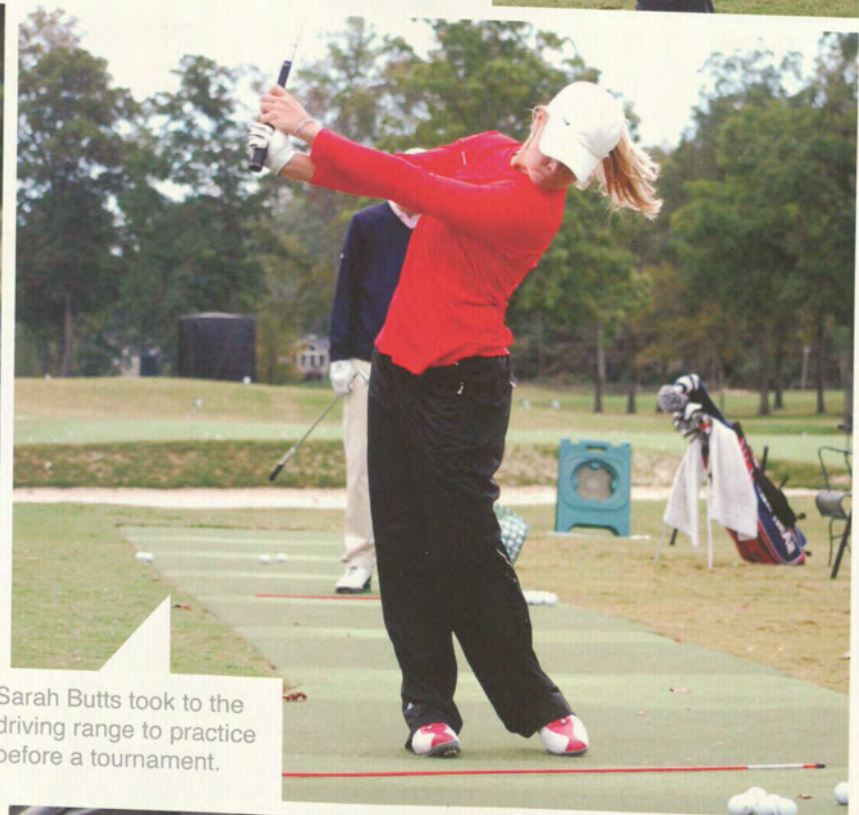
Drew Aimone watched his shot fly down the fairway.



Martin Blunt practiced his swing at the driving range.



Sarah Butts took to the driving range to practice before a tournament.



“A team with something to play for is dangerous. A team with someone to play for is unstoppable.”
Brad Moss

The samspy's

Honoring the best in University Athletics



Members of the football team posed on the Samspy's red carpet.



athletics

by Clayton Hurdle

Brad Moss and Sarah Butts were named Mr. and Miss Bulldog at the fourth annual SAMSPY's awards, held on April 30 at the Wynfrey Hotel in Hoover. In addition, the baseball and soccer teams took home four trophies each, leading all teams at the ceremony.

Miss Bulldog was Butts, who maintained a 3.97 GPA as a Spanish major and biology minor in the Fellows program. In addition to her academic prowess, Butts was last year's amateur golf champion in Georgia and a four-year letter winner for the Bulldog golf squad. "To my teammates, thanks for supporting me through all the ups, downs and mental breakdowns," said Butts.

A four-year starter as catcher for the baseball team, Moss was named to the Dean's List four times at the University and will graduate with an exercise science degree this month. "A team with something to play for is dangerous," said Moss. "A team with someone to play for is unstoppable."

Among the other prestigious awards handed out Monday night, junior exercise science major Elizabeth Neisler of the volleyball team was the 2012 female athlete of the year. "Thanks to (head coach) Dex (Schroeder) for making me the player I am today, because I'm definitely not a natural," said Neisler.



The event brought together athletes and coaches to celebrate the seasons of all University teams.



Ruth Ketcham posed with her Samspy award on the event's red carpet.



Women from the track team enjoyed the opportunity to dress up and celebrate the season with friends.



The male athlete of the year was communications studies major Michael Seaman. The senior pole vaulter earned the award for setting several Bulldog track and field records. Seaman was very thankful to the athletics department for putting an indoor track facility in the Hanna Center.

In addition to Moss, two SAMSPY awards were given to the baseball team courtesy of Phillip Ervin. The team's center fielder earned male rookie of the year honors and the SAMSPY for best finish. Ervin hit a walk-off grand slam this season to propel the Bulldogs over Auburn. Grant Sides, a pitcher who graduated last year, was named comeback player of the year for overcoming arm surgery.

The women's soccer team, having won their first ever SoCon tournament championship, received SAMSPYS for clutch performance and play of the year. Alyssa Whitehead, the Bulldogs' senior goalie, saved a penalty shot in the conference semifinal. Adrianne Mancino had the play of the year with her game-winning goal in the SoCon championship. For leading the Bulldogs to such success, brothers Jay and Todd Yelton earned assistant and head coach of the year, respectively.

The 2012 SAMSPYS celebrated a successful year for Bulldog sports and the teams and players who were most successful.

With the SoCon championship trophy, the women's basketball team celebrated their victory.



The baseball team won its first SoCon championship in University history.



athletics

SoCon awards

by Virginia Harris

The 2011-2012 year brought a host of impressive accomplishments by athletics. Multiple Southern Conference championship trophies made their way to the University sent four teams to their respective NCAA tournaments.

Women's basketball defended their 2011 SoCon championship by winning the 2012 tournament as a number four seed. At the tournament, sophomore guard Shelby Campbell was named most outstanding player. Campbell and junior guard Jazmine Martin were both named to the first team All-Tournament team. Freshman forward Taylor Reece became part of the second team All-Tournament team. The win sent the Bulldogs to the NCAA tournament for the second consecutive year, where the 15 seeded Bulldogs faced the number two seed Duke Blue Devils. The Bulldogs finished the season 20-13, making 2011-2012 the fifth-straight year the team had a 20-win season.

Women's volleyball claimed their first SoCon championship since joining the conference in 2008. The win also sent the team to the NCAA tournament where they played Cincinnati in the first round. The Bulldogs made a strong performance at the conference tournament in the Pete Hanna Center, with three players named to the all-tournament team and Lexi Bauer named the tournament MVP.

"Our coaches' preparation led us there with a confidence in our ability to win the whole thing. Instead of being nervous, we were so determined that it seemed like no one would stand in our way," said Bauer, a junior sports administration major who serves as the team's libero.

Bulldogs won big in 2011-2012

Prior to the SoCon tournament the Bulldogs had the most wins for a season in the team's history with an overall record of 26-4 and a SoCon record of 13-3. The Bulldogs earned top NCAA ranking with a number four ranking in hitting percentage in October. Three players also earned individual ranking: Lauren Hutchinson ranked first in the nation in hitting percentage; Katie Murphy ranked second and Casey Garvey ranked third in the nation in assists per set. The Bulldogs finished the season ranked 61 in the nation in the NCAA women's volleyball RPI rankings with a record of 29-4.

The women's soccer team won a nail-biter in the SoCon championship game in Greensboro, N.C. The University was the number one seed in the tournament after winning the regular season title. With this championship, the Bulldogs earned a berth to the NCAA tournament, where they faced the number one seed Florida State. The Bulldogs finished the season with an overall record of 14-6-2 and an undefeated SoCon record of 9-0-2, their best season in school history.

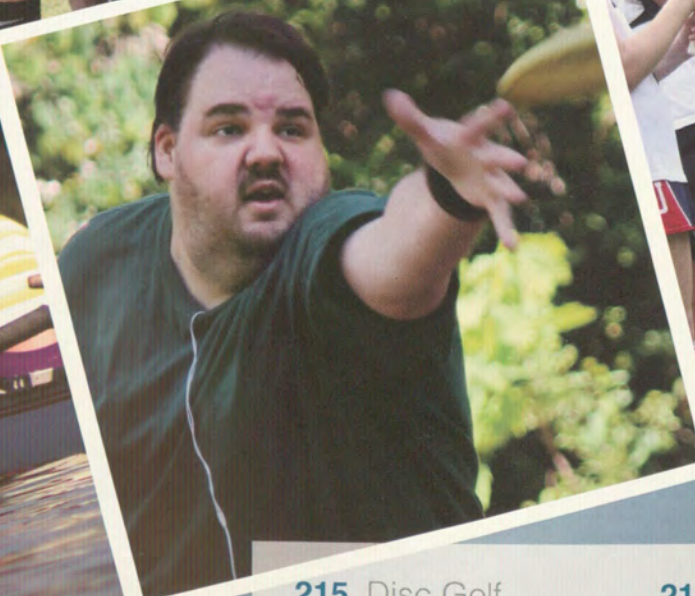
Days after the end of the spring semester, the University baseball team was still at work, clenching the team's first-ever SoCon championship with a 9-6 win over Georgia Southern. Zeth Stone helped gain the victory by hitting a two-out, three-run triple in the 10th inning. Josh Martin was named the tournament's MVP as well as All-Tournament Team with fellow teammates, Stone, Brandon Miller, Phillip Ervin, Austin Allison and C.K. Irby.

In the NCAA tournament, the team took down SEC champion, Mississippi State, defeating them twice. Despite losing to Florida State, the team made a statement at the tournament, proving their SoCon success was no fluke.



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lub sports



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disc golf

by Sarah Waller

When golf and ultimate meet

Starting a new club sport team was constantly advertised and encouraged, but junior accounting major Taylor Horne and sophomore business major Luigi Chan quickly learned how much work starting a new team would be.

As freshmen, the two discovered the disc golf course off of Greensprings Highway and found themselves playing every chance they could. Spending time at the course, they got to know Tom Monroe, the flying disc professor on campus and a disc golf enthusiast. Monroe strongly encouraged Horne and Chan to start a team at the University, offering his assistance at the team's coach.

In the fall, Horne and Chan got to work. With a core group of about seven guys, they began to fill out the paperwork and advertise the team. "The process took a lot longer than I expected," said Horne. "Mixed with our already busy schedules, it took us until the spring semester to be able to go in front of Senate and ask for money."

Slowly people started to come out, and the team started to take shape. "I would invite people to come and play,

and so many of them ask questions like, 'How much is it? What do I need to bring? What's the dress code?' Disc golf is just not about that," said Horne.

A mix between ultimate Frisbee and golf, players try to get the disc in the basket within in the allotted par. Only four people can play on a team during tournaments, using a combination of group and individual scoring.

Though the team was unable to compete in an official tournament this year, they did participate in an open tournament hosted by Campus Recreation over Easter weekend. Being able to compete in tournaments was something Horne strived to accomplish, but he simply underestimated the process of making a team official.

In future years, Horne hoped the team would participate in tournaments each semester, striving to qualify for the national tournament in the spring. And with their "home course" only minutes away from campus, Horne thought the team has a good shot at making it. "Hopefully we can create more interest and draw in people who are dedicated to the sport," said Horne. "I will not quit. I am with this team for the long haul."



Team members played at a local disc golf course off of Greensprings Highway.



The team was open to anyone who wanted to play or had a passion for the unique sport.



Men's frisbee

Team Dogma charged on

by Amy Vu

Almost every week, students convened on the Quad for a fun game of Ultimate Frisbee. For one group, Frisbee was more than a pastime. It was a way to interact with students at other universities.

The men's club Ultimate Frisbee team was a division three college team that played in tournaments against all kinds of schools (Auburn, Alabama, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, LSU, Georgia, and FSU). The team name was Dogma, and the team has been established since 2007. This season, they competed under the leadership of junior sociology major Justin Thigpen, junior accounting major Stephen Burgess and junior religion major Tim Foote.

The tournaments worked differently than tournaments for other sports. On Saturdays, the teams had pool play, in which their records at the end of the day determined whether or not they played in the championship bracket on Sundays. The championship bracket was a single elimination style play, and every game in every tournament counted toward a team's record for the overall season. After preliminary games, each team went on to compete at sectionals, regionals and nationals.

Foote enjoyed traveling with the team. "It's a great opportunity to get to know all the guys on the team as you road trip, get sunburned and play disc together for a weekend," he said.

The team consisted of about fifteen guys ranging from freshmen to graduate students. Their purpose, in the



words of Thigpen, was not to truly "recruit," but it was more to spread awareness about the sport and try to get people in on the game. In other words, it was more about the fun than the competition.

However, the team did get competitive when playing against other schools in tournaments. "My favorite part of being on the team is tournament time. When you make a big play or beat a big school, it's a great endeavor," said Thigpen. "When the whole team plays well, it's a lot of fun because of how smooth the game play is. It feels natural."



Steven Burgess analyzed the field before he tossed the Frisbee to a teammate.



athletics

Women's frisbee

A small group with big spirit

by Laura Beth Allen

Frisbee fanatics were often seen sprinting across the quad in a pair of Chacos or simply in bare feet. The Quad was constantly filled with the sound of whirring disks flying by in between classes and in the afternoons.

It was one thing to simply be an observer of this activity or pick up a few games here and there, yet it was entirely another to dedicate to a team such as Women's club Frisbee team. To outsiders, the game of Frisbee was often associated as something you do at the park or beach for casual enjoyment. Yet when taken seriously, it can be as competitive as any other sport.

"I play Frisbee for the adrenaline. I play for the rush you feel when the game starts and your team gets the Frisbee for the first time. I play for the relationships and bonding that you form while trying to get the disk from one end of the field to the other," said freshman family studies major Nicole Smith. "I play to have fun, but winning doesn't hurt either."

With the help of the recently upgraded intramural fields, these women practiced on a weekly basis and took a sport that they all love to a higher level of dedication. "I played sports in high school, and when I came to Samford, I really missed being on a sports team. Club Frisbee has been a great way to have fun and still play

competitively with a team," said sophomore art major Caroline Reid. "It's just so freeing being able to enjoy nature while being a part of a disciplined sport."

With any team there is almost always an aspect of unity. The team participated in a tournament in Mississippi in the spring, and they also had several tournaments scheduled for the 2012 season.



trailblazers



The newest running club was a big hit



James Graham crossed the finished line to win the club's Krispie Kreme Challenge.

by Amy Vu

Senior nursing major Ali Edwards decided to start a new running club in the spring. She named it "Trailblazers," and her idea became quite a hit on campus. Edwards worked alongside advisor Peter Neuberger, the senior director of the University's athletic department.

"I started the club this spring to create a running community on Samford's campus. I see Samford students running on the Lakeshore trail every time I go for a run, and I wanted to form a club to connect them to each other and with the local Birmingham running community," said Edwards. "After recently discovering my love of long distance running, in particular the marathon, I wanted to share my passion with other runners. There was no club at Samford specifically for runners, despite the abundance present on campus."

The club offered a weekly group run on Friday mornings, starting at the guard gate and running five miles down the Lakeshore trail. All paces and all distances were welcome to the group run, and the club's Facebook group grew to over 70 members.

Their debut year, the group planned and hosted the Krispy Kreme Challenge on April 19. The challenge included eating a certain amount of doughnuts and then running a certain distance. They had almost 200 participants and raised over \$1,000 for the American Cancer Society.

"The response to the race was so overwhelming that we had to reduce the challenge from 6 doughnuts in 2 miles to 4 doughnuts in 2 miles. The whole community was invited, so we had participants from eight years old to over 70," she said. "We started at the Samford track and ran down the Lakeshore trail."

After running in the Krispy Kreme Challenge, runners could enjoy chocolate milk at the finish line. The top five male and top five female runners were awarded prizes, including homemade doughnut trophies for the overall male and female winners.

Mr. Neuberger greatly enjoyed serving as advisor for Trailblazers and was impressed with Edwards' leadership.

"After having witnessed the Krispy Kreme Challenge, I am very impressed with Ali Edwards for her enthusiasm, credibility, energy and spirit to galvanize the group," she said. "She was able, in one month, to organize one of the most creative, first-time runs with as large a turn-out that I have been a part of through my 20 years of being involved with these events."

The group continues to grow, with future plans to participate in local races, offer training plans and advice to those who want to train for any race from a 5k to a marathon, or even just to get in shape. Future plans also include pasta parties, trips to Oak Mountain for trail running and a continued hosting of the Krispy Kreme Challenge each spring.

Women's Club Lax

The girls on the team are passionate about the sport and caring for each other. Lacrosse is a ton of fun, but a way to work hard and achieve accomplishments.

Annie Kraus

The fastest game on two feet

by Madi Dominescy



Lacrosse is often referred to as the fastest game on two feet, which also applies to the quick growth the sport has seen in recent years.

The women's club lacrosse team reinforced the claim that lacrosse was one of the fastest growing sports in the world of college sports. The women's lacrosse team expanded and grew since the team started just a few years ago.

The team was scheduled to play more games this year and was on the road for many of those games. Since the ladies were members of the Southern Women's Lacrosse League, they had the opportunity to travel to Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee. The league allowed the team to face a wide variety of opponents and to compete in a regional tournament at the end of their spring season.

The women's lacrosse team went beyond the campus and into the surrounding community. During the spring 2012 season, two Bulldog lacrosse players were assistant coaches for Birmingham high school teams. The team helped the sport grow in the surrounding Birmingham area.

Lacrosse was a great way to build friendships and be a part of competitive team that was time manageable. The girls formed strong friendships with one another. These friendships assisted them on the field, where strong community reinforced teamwork. Sophomore English major Annie Kraus said she loved playing on the team, and she loved her teammates.

"The girls on the team are passionate about the sport and caring for each other," said Kraus. "Lacrosse is a ton of fun, but a way to work hard and achieve accomplishments."



During their last game of the season, the team honored its seniors, including Jordyn Elrod, one of its founding members.



Annie Kraus fired up before scoring a goal.



Men's club

soccer

Kicking for a cause

by Dannelly Farrow

On campus, a student's day is typically filled with classes, writing papers and trying to make time for extracurricular activities. But, 26 Samford males had a chance to spend their time playing soccer simply because they love the game.

Senior business major Craig Chavis played on the team for the past two years and has loved every minute of it. He loved just being a part of the team. "Everyone enjoys playing the game, even though nobody is receiving a scholarship and it is all for fun," said Chavis.

The University's men's club Soccer team was a student-led and student-run organization within the Southeastern Club Soccer League. The team was in the same division as University of Alabama, Auburn University, University of Mississippi and Mississippi State University. For this team, it was not so much about winning as

it was about having a great time and playing a great sport with friends. It brought together freshmen through seniors as they practiced and played in Fall 2011 and had the possibility of playing in Spring 2012 as well.

Not only did the men play soccer for fun, but they also played for good causes. During the month of October, they wore pink jerseys to support Zeta Tau Alpha's philanthropy and to raise awareness for breast cancer. As this club sport continued to grow, so did their supporters who came from each game. Typically, they served dinner to bring even more fans out to the University's intramural fields, who cheered on the team and watched a great game. While these men were not committed to their team through scholarships or other organizations, they were committed to their team, to their fellow teammates and to the love of the game.



athletics

crew team

Rowing to championships

by Laura Beth Allen



Walking into the University Center, students couldn't help but noticed a few new additions to the interior walls. Large, crisp photos depicting a seemingly poetic waterway offset by a rowboat covered the wall from floor to ceiling. Though they later had to take it down and move the posters to the bulletin boards, the crew team's leadership continued its perseverance and dedication in campaigning for support of their sport.

"It has become clear to me that participation in crew teaches self-discipline and self-esteem," said Professor Thomas Woolley. Chris Aliotta, a former rower and current VP of treasury for Regions Bank, has been a supporter, coach and mentor for the team. "It is my hope that Samford Crew can help inspire a larger rowing community in the Birmingham area and provide students with a competitive program," said Aliotta. "What still amazes me about the team is how committed and dedicated they are towards making their rowing program a success. This type of commitment is what employers look for in future employees and leaders."

Crew was not only known for their effective marketing campaigns and eye-catching photography, but also for the principals that they strived to uphold. In February, the team traveled to Georgia Tech's campus for the Atlanta Urg Sprints to compete against other major universities. They successfully beat out other athletes from Georgia, Georgia Tech and Auburn. Senior business major Kley Sippel and sophomore nursing major Shelby Lambert both placed third in the 500 meter dash, and freshman marine science major Lauren Howell won second for the 1000 meter coxswain sprint.

After gaining a tangible sense of accomplishment, Kley Sippel shared that the competition was "affirmation of hard work and good reminder of that there is still work to be done." The spring proved to be a substantial landmark for the team and gave them a sense of accomplishment. Shelby Lambert has loved her experience with Crew. "Crew has provided a family for me at Samford. I've met some of the most amazing people through it," said Lambert. "The physical demands are high, but crew is so much more than rowing."

Crew extended beyond fancy photographs and winning medals. They recognized the importance of being a unified team that actively seeks community and high moral standards, whose ultimate achievements are not those of earthly, tangible value.





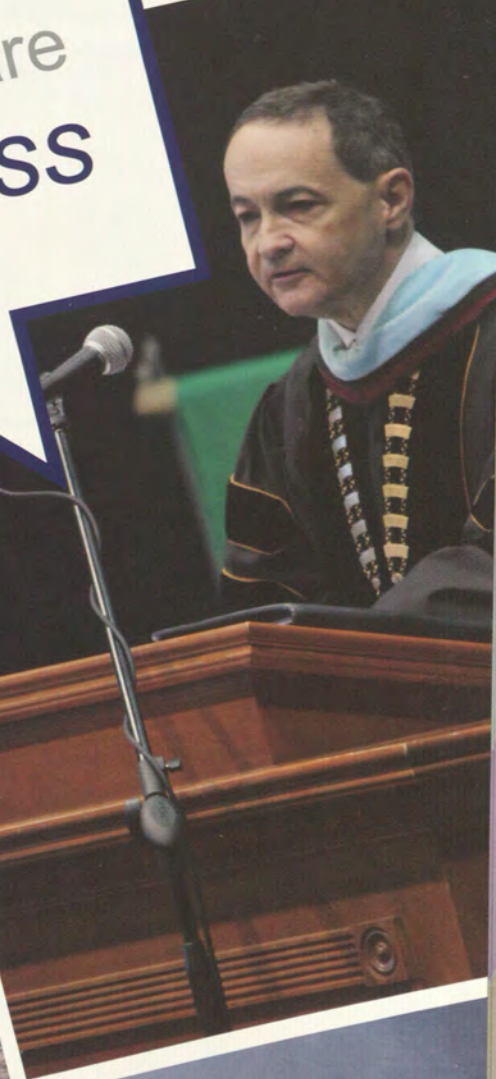
The reality of this day struck you as you walked into class on your first day of senior year, and no matter how hard you tried to slow it down, the year quickly flew by bringing you to this point. Waiting on the side of the stage, your name was called. You walked across the stage, and you were handed the diploma you spent four (maybe five) years working to achieve. Your success was declared through that silly hat you wore, because you did it. You graduated. And as the doors of your Samford experience came to a close, the doors to your future just began to open.





ommencement

declare
your success



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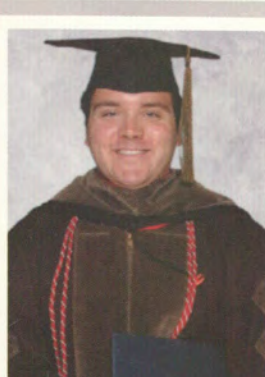
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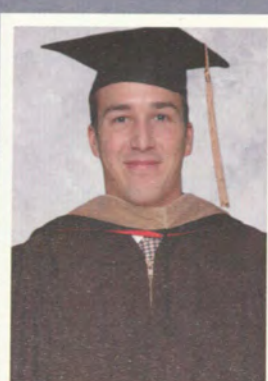


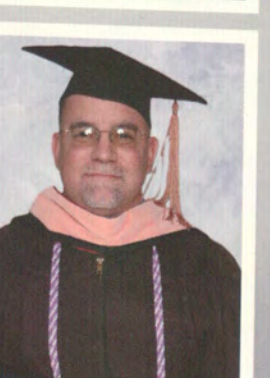
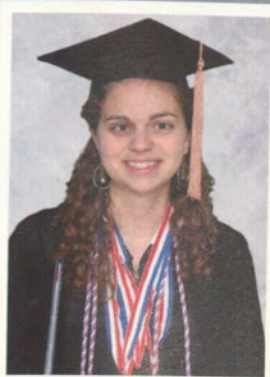




















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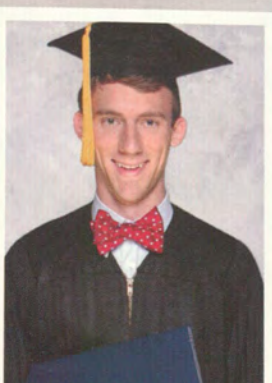
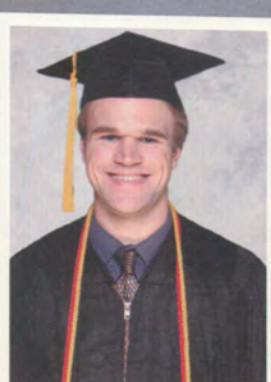
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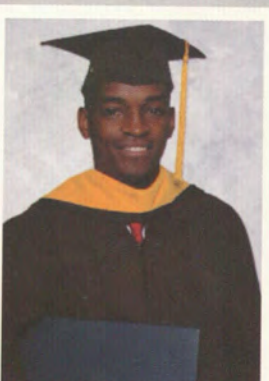
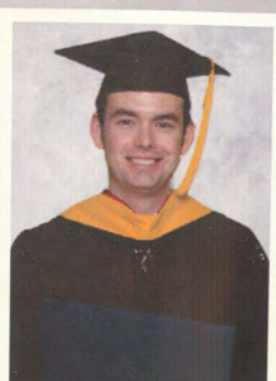
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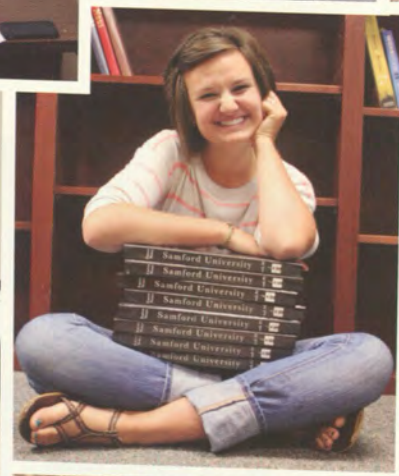
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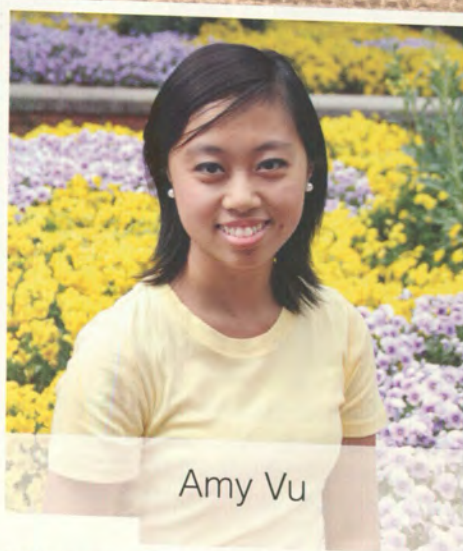
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our amazing Advisors



Sean Flynt

Letter from the

editor



Believe it or not, *Entre Nous* is a Samford publication that dates back to the 19th century. If you ever want a good study break, wander down to the entry level of the library and you'll find copies that date back to before we were born. The yearbook you now hold in your hands is a Samford tradition. It is small glimpse into the life and times of the 2011-2012 school year.

When given the opportunity to be Editor-in-Chief in the spring of 2011, I accepted the position with full knowledge of the responsibility behind producing a yearbook. And with staff of more than 50 people, I became the captain of a very busy ship.

I couldn't have asked for a more talented staff. Kaleigh with the assistance of Eleanor and Rachel took all the elements and combined them into a publishable book. Katy was remarkably organized. And Craig's dedication relieved me of so much stress. My section editors (Becca, Hilliary, Amy and Logan) were quick with deadlines, and of course, all the writers and photographers submitted the incredible, individual work that helped made the complete work so strong.

We set out to make this year's *Entre Nous* better than it has ever been before. Samford obviously cannot be contained within a 266 page book, but we tried our best. We hope you notice the additions - a section dedicated to the Arts and a sub-section given to club sports - and we hope you can appreciate the design that Kaleigh and her staff worked so hard to create.

But most importantly, I hope that when you open the cover and begin to flip through the pages, *Entre Nous* will be able to pour into you the memories of this year, the ones that are vivid in your mind as well as the ones that may have been forgotten. Go ahead, place this in a bookshelf, put it away in a box in the attic, because my hope is that one day in the future you'll be able to pull out this book and have the memories flood back to you like it was the first time.

Please enjoy.

Sarah Waller
Editor-in-Chief

Letter from the art director



The book you hold in your hands would not have been created without a diligent team of writers, photographers and designers who worked nearly nine months to produce it. In my final year as Art Director, I felt so blessed and inspired by the dedication of this year's Entre Nous team. Designing this yearbook from cover to cover was a fun challenge, and I owe Donovan Harris so much for being such a wonderful advisor and friend. To our Editor-and-Chief, Sarah Waller, I admire you for your creativity, professionalism and patience. Take a moment to pat yourself on the back, everyone, we did it!

It is truly heart-warming to see the impact of what our student body has accomplished and learned in one year. This book is just a glimmer of how Samford University shapes good people into incredible leaders.

My hope for this book, and all Samford yearbooks to come, is that the design would not simply follow a blueprint, but rather that the pages would come alive and represent our University as the positive community that we love.

As you flip through the pages, I hope you are reminded of what makes Samford home - like the feeling you get when you score a booth in the Caf, or the first time you hung out on the Quad between classes, or the heinous smell of the staircase by the Food Court. Thanks to dozens of amazing photographers, this book is full of beautiful images that bring back memories such as these.

In everything you do, do your best.

Kaleigh Warwick
Art Director
Page Designer

P.S. There is a secret number of "Where's Westmoreland?" images hidden throughout these pages. The first person to email me with the correct number will receive an awesome prize in the fall. Here's your first one. Ready, go!



closing

thoughts

by Sarah Waller

In everything you did, you declared something. If you are still unconvinced, I suggest flipping through the book a little slower next time. Think back to the bulletin boards that decorated the walls of the University Center. Do you remember them ever being empty? They were always full of posters, advertising the latest event or announcing a current accomplishment.

You declared something in every decision you made and every action you took. You wore blue body suits in front of a sold-out Wright Center crowd. You united your peers and led a campus-wide worship. And you spent hours in the studio working on a piece that would later be displayed in the University's art gallery.

Whether it was your first year or your last, your declarations impacted the University in ways you may never fully realize. Not only did you sustain traditions, but you also created them. You made connections, you made grades and you made memories that you will keep with you for a lifetime.







feb 29

After your first Step Sing practice, you cheered as loud as you could as your group's banner finally revealed the name of your theme. And then wondered all night what Sigma Chi's theme was all about. Dora the Explorer?

mar 23

Midterms were the worse, but Spring Break came right on time. Friends and the beach were just what you needed to survive the rest of the semester.



jan 2012



mar 12

It was the best Caf day ever! The place was packed for the NCAA Pairings Viewing Party in honor of the women's basketball team, but also, the food was top notch. There was honey chicken and Vizzina's Friday Special.

mar 29

With ticket in hand, you entered Harrison Theatre to be inspired and awed by the production of Momentum.





apr 2

You asked around and finally figured out where the SGA office was, all to vote on the candidates running for SGA's Student Executive Board. It was the "MAC Plan" that won out in the end.



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may 14

It was the most highly anticipated finals study break ever. Kittens and puppies were brought to Ben Brown for "Pet a Puppy" Day. The crowd that formed never shrunk, as students came to spend time with their favorite furry friends.

may 2012

apr 11

The day you decided Railroad Park was your new favorite spot in town.



may 1



You always knew your friends were creative, but Spring Fling's Flea Market helped them show it off.



*The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.*

Psalm 19:1-2